

B.A.R.

BAY AREA REPORTER

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?? ASSASSINATION ?? ROBERT OPEL

WHO WAS HE AND WHY IS HE DEAD?

News Analysis

Robert Opel was a dangerous man because he said things no one wanted to hear, did things no one wanted to see. Not straights. Not Gays. No one.

Let's be clear about something: Robert Opel was not the victim of just an attempted robbery. Robert Opel was assassinated and his suspected assassin permitted to escape.

Robert Opel had a typical middle-class upbringing. His family moved often when he was young; his father was a construction worker. Robert felt early on like a "traditional outsider."

Prior to college Robert Opel considered himself heterosexual. Friends report that a short time before his death he has resumed relating sexually to women some of the time, though on a totally different level. He knew he was Gay.

After college, he settled in Los Angeles and took a "traditional" suit-and-tie job as a school administrator. He also worked for the Reagan campaign but was dumped because his written political attitudes were too strong. "He could not compromise his method of approach to politics," was the way one person who knew him put it.

Following a protest nude appearance at a Los Angeles City Council meeting and streaking the Oscars' telecast, Opel was fired from his administrative job. Eventually he came to San Francisco, worked at his art (which also included photography, video-films and theater pieces). "Pushed by the system to the outskirts" of society, unable to finance his art in what the system would term a "legitimate" manner, Robert

Opel began dealing in drugs. He also took them. He also shared drugs with his friends. He also made "no effort to hide his drug dealing," was "very indiscreet" about it, bought and sold "vast amounts" of drugs. He dealt primarily with a "low class clientele," mainly in PCP — "Angel Dust."

Opel rented the storefront at 1287 Howard Street as a combination work space and living quarters. He was "upset about opening the [Fey Way] Gallery," but there was no other place in the City where Gay erotic art could be displayed. Contrary to reports (even in the Gay press) the majority of the artwork shown was not "sado-masochistic." There is a difference between erotica, pornography, and S&M, even though the edges sometimes blur.

Also contrary to reports, Robert himself seemed not to have been directly involved in the "S&M scene," though some of his friends admittedly were.

But he had many friends — of many different types.

Robert Opel was most of all a teacher and a mentor. He helped Camille O'Grady make it as a subculture star. He supported the creative efforts of many, many people. The first show at Fey Way was the first public exhibition of the drawings of Tom of Finland anywhere in the world. Robert Opel interviewed film director John Waters ("Pink Flamingos") on videotape. He supported non-traditional artists of all descriptions — musicians, poets, theater people.

All of this comes from his friends — those he helped, those he taught. But this is the story of only the one man — a man who took grave chances

because he believed and did what others only talked about.

★ ★ ★

Robert Opel knew that he might die for what he believed. He had prearranged his cremation. He had premonitions of an early death — the price some have to pay for living their political opinions. And though each spoke differently about what they believed (which, in essence, was the same thing) there are reverberations here of the life and death of Harvey Milk. Both died young (Opel was 39). Both died for what they believed in and for what they were. Both men died because they were Gay. Both were victims of forces beyond the fingers that pulled the triggers.

Robert Opel would likely be the first to laugh at having become a martyr.

★ ★ ★

"It was definitely a political assassination," stated one of his friends. This same man also knew Maurice Keenan, the man who pulled the trigger, and Linda Holt as well. He knew them from drug parties around the City — mixed parties, Gay and straight. He felt Keenan did not know Robert Opel personally, but certainly had the knowledge of his activities as a drug dealer.

One theory put forth is that Maurice Keenan and Robert Kelly were "set up" to kill Robert Opel. Names of groups and individuals were spoken — including a pseudo-religious group made up of members of the S.F.P.D. and an over-stuffed and over-publicized "religious" figure whose real game is fascist politics. Also



Robert Opel (R.) joins artist Tom Hinde at a recent opening at Fey Way Gallery. (Photo by Rink)

FBI Probes Police Riot

According to a by-lined story in the S.F. Chronicle, the FBI is now investigating the police attack on Castro Street's Elephant Walk, May 21.

Assistant U.S. Attorney General Drew Davis, head of the Justice Department's civil rights division, requested the official probe, and a local FBI spokesperson has confirmed that the investigation began last week.

The FBI has been furnished with a list of more than 100 citizens who testified they witnessed countless unprovoked assaults by police on the night of the Dan White verdict.

Following the riots at City Hall, the police sent their forces into the Castro to "settle the score" from the indecisive earlier incidents. Around 12:30am the police cordoned off the four corners of Castro and 18th Streets. Suddenly one line of helmeted and club-wielding police broke ranks and

rushed the Elephant Walk bar. An estimated 20 rioting police swept through the bar beating both customers and employees. Patrons, both male and female, seated at tables, were clubbed to the floor. Several were hospitalized.

The Castro riot police were under the command of Mission Station Captain George Jeffereys, who, according to journalist Warren Hinckle, behaved as if he were directing "search and destroy missions." According to some observers, much of the POA's subsequent uproar over PD Chief Gain's participation was designed as a smoke-screen for the criminal behavior of many of their members who participated in the May 21 riots.

The FBI said the investigation is expected to be completed by mid-August. Once the report is submitted, Justice Department officials will decide whether to prosecute.

Inside B.A.R. This Issue

VOL. 9 NO. 15 JULY 19, 1979

NEXT ISSUE OUT: AUGUST 2

NEXT DEADLINE: JULY 27

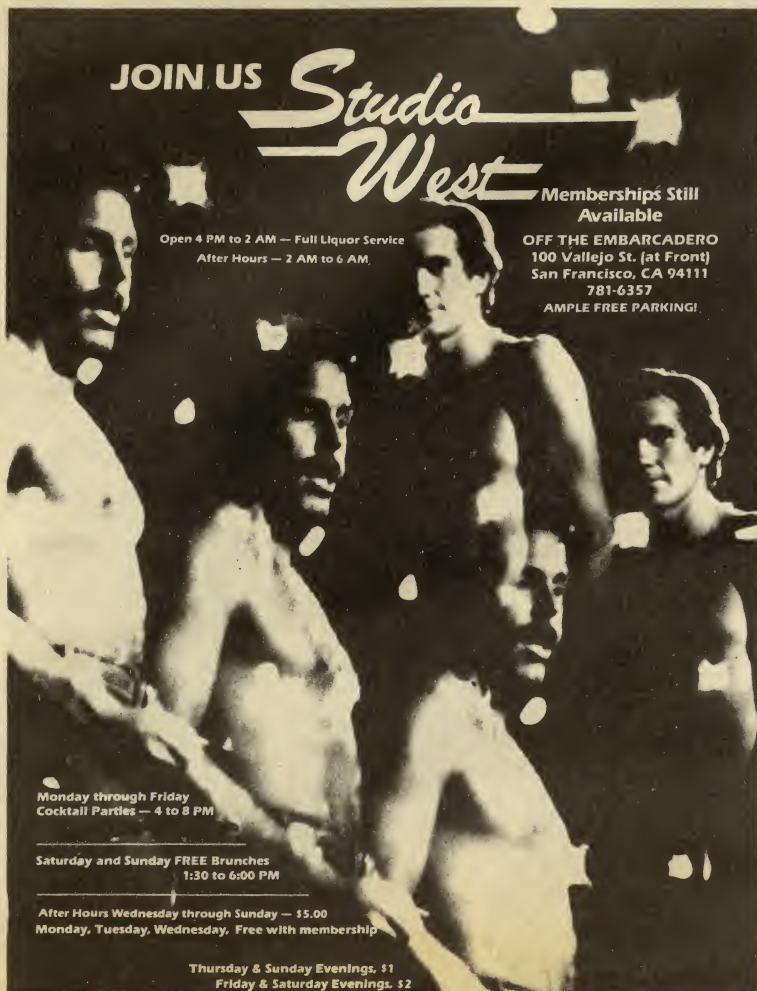
- B.A.R. checks into the new Women's Building p. 8
- A new superb Gay film — from France this time p. 17
- Before you go, check Adam Block's "Up, Coming & Choice" Section 2
- A. Marc Leventhal continues his WanderLust through French Polynesia Section 2



The Fey Way Studio, Robert Opel's art gallery, the scene of the assassination. (Photo by John Gieske)

Blow an attacker away
— with a whistle

?? ASSASSINATION ??



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mentioned was the name of a wealthy Floridian.

When arrested at S.F. International Airport, Keenan and Kelly had tickets for a flight to Florida. To Miami. But it's all only threads.

The day before the murder, one friend of Robert Opel's received a phone call from Maurice Keenan "out of the blue." Keenan sounded whacked out on drugs and was not making sense — except that what he was saying was very disturbing, hinting at something unpleasant about to take place.

Maurice Keenan and Robert Kelly did not go to Fey Way Gallery the night of July 7 just to rob Robert Opel. They had money. They had been "paid." They went to Opel's home with specific instructions and heavily strung out on drugs they'd been fed by someone else. They went there to shoot and kill Robert Opel.

They went expecting Opel to be alone. He was not. They spared Camille O'Grady and Anthony Rogers partially because Robert Opel protected their lives with his own and partially because the assassins only had orders to murder Opel, no one else.

★ ★ ★

The police, it is reported, were called by friends of Robert Opel and told who the assassins were after piecing the facts together on their own. It took them hours to finally get through to the police with their information. The homicide detectives were a half hour behind Keenan, Kelly and Holt all day on Monday, July 9, before they finally caught up with them at the airport.

Was it a mistake? Were these officers not supposed to have caught the killers? As we all well know, the police seldom apprehend the slayers of Gay people unless the public outcry is strong enough to force it. To the general police mentality here and everywhere, the murderers of Gays (including Dan White) are doing "a public service." This must be understood in order to comprehend what happened next.

The "mistake" was partially rectified — Maurice Keenan was allowed to walk out of the Hall of Justice and disappear. He was allowed to escape by so-called "bungling" Sheriff's deputies. He was allowed to enter and leave his father's San Bruno home with new firearms even though the house was supposedly under surveillance by the police.

This "mistake," however, has an ironic twist — more ironic than the events themselves. For, Maurice Keenan will be paying for it, Maurice Keenan will very likely never be seen again — alive.

★ ★ ★

The big unanswered question: Who is actually behind all this? The easy answer, the surface answer, is that it all has to do with drug racketeering. That's too easy.

Robert Opel's was a voice that many people listened to; some turned on but most turned off.

We know — "conspiracy" has been cried before and everyone just shrugs and walks away. We know — violence is a "way of life" in America to-

day, especially among those who live "on the fringe," especially among those who dabble in extreme forms of sexual expression, especially among those who use and deal in drugs.

But why Robert Opel?

Because to many, straight and Gay, his nagging voice had become too loud, too annoying. He seemed easy enough to erase. Drug dealers perish every day. That's the easy answer. People prefer to accept easy answers. They don't want to be bothered with having to put up with "weirdo exhibitionists" who operate "porno" art galleries and run naked across TV screens and attend Mayor's luncheons in full leather drag and stage mock shootings in the middle of the Gay Freedom Day Parade in order to demonstrate loud and clear the warped system of values in our society.

(Two weeks before he died, Robert Opel told this reporter that he had also written to D.A. Freitas asking that a full "trial" be conducted following his Gay Freedom Day event built around the supposition of "a faggot shooting a straight ex-cop." It was meant to prove the point. Opel received no reply to his letter.)

People would rather live with the belief that there is no connection whatsoever between some elements of law enforcement and drug dealing and gangsterism even though the "straight" press puts forth the information that the Police Department knew that Robert Opel dealt in drugs and never attempted to bust him for it.

(This reporter called the Narcotics Division to confirm this fact. First put on hold for a very long time, then told there were only two detectives there neither of whom had any information, then leaving name and phone number to be called back when someone came in who could provide information. There was no return call.)

People find it easy to accept whatever the "straight" press says as gospel even though the facts are often distorted to make Gays appear worse than we are and the inadequacies of law enforcement "professionals" are glibly passed over as though they were only comedy — "Keystone Kops Go Kweer!"

It's difficult for people, straight or Gay, to comprehend that major political figures just might have a hand in any of it, in spite of all the FBI and CIA documents recently made public, in spite of Nixon and Watergate, in spite of cases of political corruption erupting daily across the country — sometimes even in San Francisco. But political assassination on the basis of sexual orientation? Very far-fetched!

Robert Opel died because he knew all about the hypocrisy of drug politics and sexual politics and police politics. He knew and he said he knew. He knew, too, that not all Gays are saints.

★ ★ ★

It is therefore vital that we find out exactly who was behind the assassination of Robert Opel before time and further "staged" complications wear away at the facts.

That can only happen if everyone who is Gay in this City and those able to see the



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Robert Opel (L.) at '78 Halloween pre-Trocadero Monster Party. (Photo by Rink)

truth beyond their inbred homophobia realize that the events taking place are not unrelated, are not paranoia, are not the result of a badly written TV series.

What it really is is a power struggle. Pure and complicated.

Robert Opel believed that you can't live within the system and cooperate with the system in order to correct the system.

Robert Opel died because he had ideals and integrity and a great love for his friends and a perfect response for what the term "freedom" really means. But he was not a saint. He was a man. He was a Gay man. Robert Opel was a Gay man who refused to compromise his ideals.

★ ★ ★

Robert Opel would applaud.

Ray P. Comeau

**Freitas Takes After May 21st-ers
COMMITTEE AND FUND ORGANIZED**



San Francisco District Attorney Joe Freitas is throwing the book at the 28 people arrested during the May 21st protest of the Dan White verdict that turned into a riot at City Hall.

Of the 28 people arrested that night, most have been charged with multiple felonies (the charges consist of throwing rocks or mace at police). In response, Gay and straight lawyers, mostly from the National Lawyer's Guild, have organized the May 21 Legal Committee to combine the defense of all persons charged. Also, a group of concerned people have organized a defense fund to cover expenses.

According to activist Charlie Hinton, "The DA's strategy is to prosecute the cases to the limit. It appears that Freitas is using this trial to save face for his inept prosecution of Dan White." Freitas has assigned James Lassarte, notorious for his prosecutions of the White Panther Party and the New World Liberation Front, as prosecutor. Furthermore, it has been noted since each felony charge carries a five year sentence, if convicted some defendants could get longer jail sentences than Dan White.

The defense response to Freitas' position has been to move to disqualify him as prosecutor of these cases and demand an independent prosecution. On Thursday, June 7, the defense filed a motion for **recusal** (i.e., disqualification) before Municipal Court Judge Dorothy von Beroldingen on

the grounds that Freitas is prejudiced since the riot was a reaction to his lousy prosecution of Dan White. The defense attorneys argued that because of Freitas' prejudice and re-election concerns he is seeking the stiffest sentences possible for all people arrested. He hopes to show that he is a good prosecutor and to get vengeance against those who protested his handling of the White case.

The response of the prosecution to the defense strategy has been to file a motion, also on June 7, to disqualify von Beroldingen as judge on the grounds that she was prejudiced against the prosecution since she had ruled favorably to allow an evidentiary hearing on the **recusal** motion (instead of throwing it out). When von Beroldingen refused to disqualify herself, the DA countered on June 29 with a writ to Superior Court Judge Hanlon to disqualify her. Judge Hanlon sided with the prosecution and ordered von Beroldingen out of the case.

In turn, the defense team has appealed the decision to the Court of Appeals to reinstate von Beroldingen, and that is where the legal maneuvering now stands. This case will likely appear before the California Supreme Court before it is resolved.

These motions and counter-motions are early indications that this will be a serious and drawn-out legal battle.

**Gay Band Wins
Top Honors in
Redwood City**

The San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band, the Twirling Corps, baton twirler Joe Poltrone, and the newly formed Guard won three first prizes and one second prize in the 4th of July Parade held in Redwood City. This is the first time the band has marched outside of San Francisco in a non-Gay parade. Moreover, the band won more prizes than any other entry in the parade.

The band, under the direction of Jon R. Sims, won first prize as the Best Civilian Band in the parade. Joe Poltrone won first prize and a trophy as best individual in the parade. The Twirling Corps won second prize in their category.

The newly formed unit, THE GUARD, was performing for the first time in a parade which

gives awards on a competitive basis and they did San Francisco's Gay community proud by winning first prize in their category.

THE GUARD is a precision flag unit which boasts members from many award-winning guard and precision drill teams. The Captain and drill instructor for the group is Rick Barrett and the coordinator is Dick Thompson. In addition to the Redwood City parade and the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade, they have also appeared with the band and the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus in their Los Angeles concert as well as the Los Angeles Gay Pride Day Parade. THE GUARD has now grown to over 30 members, and anyone interested in joining may phone 826-1538 for more information.

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Viewpoint

Look For A Silver Lining

On July 13, the B.A.R. had the pleasure of interviewing Carol Ruth Silver on SMC's TV show "Gay News and Views" on Channel 26.

B.A.R. found Silver articulate, candid, and refreshing.

Some of Silver's views on entrapment, vice squad peep-holing, prostitution, while not revolutionary, are revelatory and consistent. Silver totally accepts the consensual sex law as the law. What sexually transpires between two willing adults in their privacy is **their business** and no one else's. Least of all the police's.

As D.A. Silver will not and cannot prosecute anyone for what is no longer breaking the law. The problem as she sees it is a breakdown between the various arms of law enforcement. Says Silver, it is up to the D.A. to inform the police what acts are criminal and what are not. And that there is no point bringing before the courts situations that are **not criminal**.

We all — particularly a moralistic cop — might be offended by certain vagaries of street behavior, but it is not attitudes that warrant three months in jail. It might be "low class," it might be trying on the eye and ear, it might be vulgar, it might hurt business — but looking and asking for sex is not criminal. Prostitution busts are no more than (and have always been) removing unsavory males and females from the footpath. What offends is their candor and their immediacy.

Carol Ruth Silver — largely because of the Dan White trial atrocity — has become a candidate for San Francisco District Attorney. She has devoted 20 years to the battle of minority rights. The B.A.R. finds her a brave, honest, and intelligent public servant. She restores one's faith, for she believes that the quality of our city life can be improved.

Carol once again in her life has gone out on a limb. This time to rescue the legacy of Harvey Milk and George Moscone from those who were to quick to betray it.

P. Lorch

Letters...

POLICE PUSH PERSISTS

★ Police harassment continues unabated on Polk Street. Do you know of any other section of the city where the pigs are giving citations for jaywalking, stopping people indiscriminately and asking for identification, and just waiting for someone to protest so they can charge him with resisting an officer?

On the evening of July 9 I was accosted by three officers while talking with one other person on the street half a block off Polk. They asked for ID, searched us, grabbed my Jaguar Club card from me after I gave them my driver's license, called in to the computer, wrote my name and address in a notebook, said there was a loitering law for which we could be arrested, said I had to get a new driver's license because the old one was not in good enough condition, before letting me go.

In walking down the street (Polk) to my car, I saw the same three officers had a young man handcuffed, lying in the gutter, with one officer having his foot in the back of the person as he was lying face down in the gutter. Another man had been issued a jaywalking ticket and apparently the young man had protested receiving the ticket, and this gave the pigs an opportunity to show how tough they could be. They kept the young man in this position until the paddy wagon arrived some 10-15 minutes later. While taking the person to the paddy, one of the officers yanked the young man by the hair.

The police on Polk Street are looking for provocations to abuse their authority and hassle people without cause. It's time to protest police harassment.

John Plume
San Francisco

ED. NOTE: It seems to do little good... P. Lorch)

MAY 21 HOSTILE PROBE

★ Mayor Feinstein and D.A. Freitas are taking the May 21st riot very seriously. Freitas is out for the toughest possible sentences against the 28 people arrested and has appointed James Lassarte, notorious for his prosecutions of the White Panther Party and the New World Liberation Front, as prosecutor.

Currently two investigations are taking place over the riot. One is by the S.F. Police Commission, which was given the mandate to investigate by Feinstein after her "blue-ribbon" panel dissolved. The other is by the state grand jury. One grand jury ended on June 30 after calling 24 witnesses. It will be replaced by a new one which will probably subpoena many more people in efforts to scapegoat members of the Gay community as "instigators" of the riot, instead of placing the blame on the inept prosecution of Dan White and increasing police violence against Lesbians and Gay men.

I encourage people not to collaborate with these investigations in any way. The Police Commission has contracted out their investigation to the Stanford Research Institute for \$25,000. The SRI investigated the S.F. State riots of ten years ago and later helped reorganize San Francisco's welfare system so as to reduce both the number of people eligible for welfare and the amount of welfare payments. Stanford student protests against SRI defense contracts during the Viet Nam war led to its being severed from Stanford University to become an independent "think-tank." They are known to have CIA contracts. And now they are supposed to investigate US!!! They are looking for names to put in computers, and Gay community leaders to scapegoat for the riot. DON'T TALK!

The grand jury is even more dangerous because they can try to force us to talk through their subpoena power and through granting us immunity from prosecution if we rat on our comrades. They can jail us if we refuse. In the last ten years federal grand juries and their agents, the FBI and local police, have harassed and disrupted Lesbian communities in Boston,

New Haven, Lexington (KY), and Seattle. One woman, Jill Raymond, went to jail for almost two years for refusing to talk. Women have a lot more experience with grand juries than men and have learned to resist them as a community. Men must learn to do the same. Lesbians Against Police Violence has recently printed a leaflet about grand jury powers and how to resist them.

I encourage B.A.R. readers to learn more about the Police Commission, the Stanford Research Institute, and the grand jury system. The more we learn, the better equipped we will be to pull together to resist what is coming down and to FIGHT BACK.

Charlie Hinton
San Francisco

AB.A.R. FAN

★ Thanks, B.A.R., for being the most supportive paper of Gay entertainers and the community. East Bay Gay Day was fabulous, and your paper helped to turn out 5,000 strong supporters.

Jon Sugar

NEVADA BOYCOTT

★ Last I heard, Nevada had not ratified the ERA and is being boycotted by all concerned feminists. I notice that you carry at least one large, expensive (presumably) ad for a Nevada bar, the Reno V.I.P. Club. Perhaps you had not connected these matters; now that it's been pointed out, I would suggest that no further ads from Nevada bars, etc., be accepted — unless maybe that bar can prove it has contributed money to the fight for the ERA in significant amounts.

Naturally this would go for other non-ratifying states as well.

If contractual difficulties prevent the rejection of the ads, I would like to suggest each issue carry a large ad and/or article on the ERA boycott.

Camilla Decarnin

P.S.: I notice that you state that ads would not be rejected "solely on the basis of politics" — but somehow I can't picture B.A.R. printing ads from Anita Bryant. The non-ratifying states have a much more far-reaching effect on Lesbians and all women than Bryant has on Gays in general — and they have had this effect for far longer. Gay men can choose to ignore this or to do whatever is in their power to change it.

(ED. NOTE: Your points are well taken. That one large, expensive ad can be bought out by whomever wants to put up the \$\$\$. As of now it's paying my wages. I too support ERA and I suspect so does the Dave's chain. Who's to penalize whom?... P. Lorch)

B.A.R. REVIEWER RESPONDS

★ RE: Letter from Jason Serinus about my review of Elula Perrin's *Women Prefer Women*.

I thank Mr. Serinus for expressing his frank views. However, he does not deserve an apology for anything. In the review I do not speak for anyone but myself; I point out that women can be just as sexist as men when their views become so extreme as those of Elula Perrin.

I too am a firm believer in both men's and women's liberation. But this freedom must cut both ways.

Miss Perrin utterly condemns all males in virtually any context and then I am supposed to hand her a bunch of roses. My sense of guilt over the past sins committed by mankind does not extend quite that far.

Frank J. Howell
Book Reviewer - B.A.R.

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Letters...

AN OPEN LETTER TO CHAR

* With much anger and resentment I am writing this letter concerning your handling of the bay cruise on July 3.

I feel that the advertising was misleading and false and that you, as sponsor of the event, are responsible for any and all advertising that was printed.

When I purchased my tickets, it was with the understanding that they were all-inclusive. When we went aboard at 7:30, we were told that we had to purchase tickets for drinks and from what I understand from those who did attend that also was planned very slipshod at best.

I know that I am not alone in my feelings on this matter. In the days since the cruise I have heard anger and frustration from a great percentage of the people who did attend. I feel that any future events being planned will be examined very closely.

So with no regrets I have stopped payment on my check in the amount of \$30 since I refused to sail with you under the above circumstances.

Frank Hogan
San Francisco

A NEW GAY PRIDE

* On May 21, 1979, Gays in San Francisco showed the world's straight community that we are no different from the rest of the human race, in that we too will only tolerate so many abuses. Opinions concerning the events of that Monday night have ranged from extreme criticism to high praise. Whether the events of that night were "good" or "bad" is no longer the question that should be addressed, but rather what political statements, if any, were made.

First, Gays completely destroyed the old stereotype that we are a forever passive people. Action, reaction, and frustration, characteristics which are common to all people, were publicly displayed by the Gay community.

Second, Should that frustration have been channeled or vented in other forms? That too is no longer the question. We are first, people. People with a great deal of sensitivity who felt a great deal of frustration with the outcome of a system which is supposed to provide some form of justice when serious violations of law and order occur.

Third, We the San Francisco Gay community must realize that Gays everywhere look to the politics of San Francisco for direction and support with the struggles we all face in just living our lifestyles. Gay Pride Week is quickly approaching and just what does that mean? It means that it doesn't matter what our political leanings may be (left or right) we must be committed to having pride and dignity in what we are. This means no longer being afraid to say to San Franciscans, but to the rest of the world, that we are here, and we are to stay! And this means not restricting ourselves to our communities (Castro, Polk, Folsom, etc.) but that as human beings with full rights, we are free to choose to make any place or area our home. This means that while we can enjoy the benefits of having a Castro, or Polk, or Folsom, we must not restrict ourselves to those communities alone. For the political leadership views those areas as huge "playgrounds" where Gays can be kept politically safe. Their view is that as long as Gays have their bars, and discos, and ghettos, the politicians need have no fear of being held politically accountable to the Gay community. We have come out of the closets and there will be times that we will have to leave our so-called safe enclaves (Castro, Polk, etc.) in order to preserve our right to be free from abuses from the majority.

Finally, All Gays must remain united in the belief that our overall good is not to be "accepted" or "tolerated" but that we are a people, and a people that are here to stay! Whether our beliefs are of a non-violent nature or of a more active persuasion, we must remain committed to having pride in our being Gay. This means that whenever abuses occur against Gays we must stand up and be counted. For those of us who are non-violent, we must stand firm and hold our ground; we need not fight back physically, but with our mere presence. For those of us who are of a more active persuasion, we must assume the consequences of any and all actions. The overall goal for all of us is to attain full rights and freedom from abuse because of our lifestyle.

Harvey Milk was definitely a man committed to Gay Pride, and the commitment of each and every Gay person is now being tested in San Francisco. To those of us who showed our frustration and discon-

tent with the verdict rendered in the murder of Harvey Milk and George Moscone that was but one of the many tests we will have to face. To those who did not get involved, in any form, I can only say you are not safe even in your own community (Castro, Polk, etc.) and if you aren't willing to stand up to protect your right to be free from such abuse, you will lose that community.

Henry Estrada

A BOOK IN MIRACLES BOOSTER

* I would like to take this space to share with you the great peace of mind I have found from studying a book entitled *A Course In Miracles*.

Dwight Chapin recently (6-26) featured an article relating to how the book is being used for various healing purposes.

I feel that this book has the ability to help us better understand the world we live in and can be an invaluable tool in assisting the Gay community bring our message of love to the world.

Paul Stewart

AD-VICE FROM CHICAGO

* Recently I visited San Francisco and I was pleased to see that an effort is being made to abolish the vice squad. Recently, we in the Chicago area were shocked when our local vice officials decided to have a massive harassment campaign against the Gay community. In just a short time over 16 raids were conducted and scores of individuals were arrested. I hope that the Gay people of San Francisco will participate in this effort to get rid of the legalized version of Puritan repression known as the vice squad.

I was also shocked to see the total incompetency of your District Attorney Joseph Freitas. I became aware that Bart Lee, who authored the referendum to abolish the vice squad, has become a candidate for D.A. on the Libertarian Party ticket; I saw him speak at the Szasz talk on the Dan White decision and I think he would be a great D.A.

Jim Peron
Batavia, Illinois

PROUD OF MIAMI PARADE

* Being a native San Franciscan, and growing up with the Gay community there, tends to give one a biased view on Gay Day and the Parade itself. Miami is a place of an incredible amount of Gay repression.

Having been here before, I knew that there could be nothing here compared to the multitudes that would be flocking to San Francisco. At first, I was envious, but, concurrently, I was deeply impressed and moved by the efforts, time, and energy that went into creating the celebration of our self-assurance and pride as Gay individuals in this city in the middle of Anita Bryant's domain.

The parade started with a contingent of motorcyclists (The Thebans) dressed in the usual apparel, followed by a hearse and four pall bearers carrying a coffin representing the mourning of Harvey Milk and the death of our rights and Gays when the country we live in closes the lid of our own casket on the cadaver of our rights as human beings and I do use the term metaphorically.

The rest of the parade consisted of a few floats and the regular chanting people (about 3-4 thousand). It took about an hour and a half before it was over. This is nothing compared to San Francisco, except for one thing.

Living in a city as free and open as San Francisco, one tends to forget the other cities which still face oppression.

I was proud to be with their little parade and their tacky floats because behind all of this was a strong community which often isn't indicative of the Gay populace of San Francisco outside of the bars and tragic events.

I was proud of being a Miamian, and a San Franciscan, that day and I hope as the years go by we really look at ourselves as brothers and sisters and not as east and west for this struggle is won together or not at all.

Daniel Ri Histo
Miami, Florida



Real Estate

By BILL FELDMAN
PREFERRED REALTY

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You can make a million mistakes trying to sell your own home. And one of them is making the wrong improvements. Many times, an expensive addition or repair can be the kind of thing that'll cost you far more than you get back.

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lent amount.

Instead of guessing as to how much, if any, repair work to undertake, see a Realtor. He can tell you what to do to make your home more salable. And what not to do so you won't lose money.

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Women's Building Thrives

DESPITE HOSTILE NEIGHBORS AND HARASSMENT OF GAYS

By Claudia Moomjy

On 18th Street, between Valencia and Guerrero, in the Mission District stands Dove Hall. Formerly a fraternal center owned by the Local Sons of Norway, Dove Hall is now a women's building.

In 1971 which includes dozens of women's groups, took ownership of the building. It is the first women owned and operated building of its kind in the country, and the neighborhood hasn't totally accepted the change.

On April 1, 1979, San Francisco's Women's Centers, an umbrella organization founded

The building's main functions are a centralized head-

seen by the different groups which are housed in the building: Women Over 40, Concilio Mujeres, Women for Racial and Economic Equality, Feminist Writers Guild for the Women's Press Project, San Francisco chapter of NOW (National Organization for Women), Black Women Organized for Action, Coalition for Medical Rights for Women, Women's Switchboard, and the list continues. Over half the building's space will be available to any community group to rent for classes, meetings,



Dove Hall (18th & Valencia) now the Women's Building.
(Photo by John Gieske)

quarters for women's groups, a cultural arts center, a community center, and a resource center.

The building currently houses 30 women's projects. Plans are underway for a library, a health care center, an older women's project, a rape crisis center, a child care center, a drop-in room, a Latina organization, a karate school, and a women's restaurant. Housing and employment counseling are also offered.

The building is committed to becoming representative of the multi-racial, multi-ethnic, and multi-cultural composition of the community in which it is located as well as the community at large. The participation of Third-World women in the planning, organizing, staffing and decision making of the building is supported and encouraged.

Organizers of the building are committed to participating in the surrounding community of the Mission District. All publicity for the building is printed in Spanish as well as English. Women who are involved in the building project have begun attending Mission District Community meetings. Programs are being planned to appeal to diverse cultural interests. This is

workshops, benefits, and other events. The revenue will help meet the building's expenses.

From the sidewalk the size of the building is deceptive. It looks quite small, but once one has had an opportunity to tour the inside, one will be amazed at how large the building actually is. It stands four stories tall and is 27,000 square feet. There are two performance spaces, an 800-seat auditorium with stage and adjacent bar area and another 150-seat area. All four floors are wheelchair accessible.

Dove Hall was constructed in 1911 by a German men's athletic club. In 1934, Henrik Ibsen Lodge #7 of the Sons of Norway bought the building and remodeled it into a fraternal center. They named it Dove Hall after the Dove mountain range that divides Norway and Sweden.

The Women's Building began as a sponsored project of the San Francisco Women's Centers in the spring of 1977. An offer was made in the summer of 1978. The final price was negotiated at \$535,000. An unofficial tally in May revealed that benefits accounted for \$40,000; grants, \$60,000; and donations \$60,000.



The Women's Collective of the Women's Building. (Photo by John Gieske)

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The Mission District was chosen for the Women's Building so it would attract women from all different cultures. Though the neighborhood might not be the most desirable, of the twenty women I spoke to none said they were afraid to go there at night. Many live in the Mission District. Many women were there for the first time. Of the women who used the building, all were pleased and satisfied with what it offers and the atmosphere in general. As one woman said, "This building is long overdue. The Women's Building will improve the neighborhood."

However, the friction that was felt while moving into the neighborhood seems to still be in the air. Sherry Medary, a woman who attended a modern dance performance which was held as a benefit for the women's building a month and a half ago, told B.A.R. that the Dove Club, an Irish bar which is part of the building, was repeatedly asked to turn their music down during the performance. Medary stated there were voices from the bar shouting, "Turn it up. Turn it up." She stated that the audience put up with it very well and then added, "But we are all used to that kind of thing; aren't we?"

Unfortunately there have been reports of harassment against Gays going to and from the center. CUAV (Community United Against Violence) considers 18th & Valencia one of the "problematic" areas for Gays (particularly Gay women) and has included the Women's Building in its weekend Safety Patrol program. The Dove Club bar appears to be the source of much of the unfriendliness toward Gays.

The B.A.R. prints more copies than any other local paper — and its ad rates are low.



The Dove Club, scene of several incidents of Gay harassment as people make use of the newly established Women's Building. (Photo by John Gieske)

Gay Bill Passes First Test

Sacramento

Last week Assemblyman Art Agnos' (D-SF) Gay Jobs Bill passed the Assembly Labor committee 7 to 6.

The measure would add Gays to the list of minorities protected by the state Fair Employment Practices Act. If passed by the legislature, employment discrimination against Gays would be illegal.

The next hurdle for Agnos' bill is the Assembly Ways and Means Committee, who will be concerned with what the measure will cost if enacted.

Gays March with Sandinistas

Around 50 Gay men and women marched with some 3,000 in support of the Sandinista guerrillas. They marched July 14 from Garfield Park to the Civic Center Plaza. There seemed to be no friction between the straights and Gays.

Gays carried two large banners. One read, "Lesbians Against Police Violence," the other, "Gays for the Nicaraguan Revolution."

Other small signs carried by Gays read: "Support the F.S.L.N.," "U.S. Hands Off Nicaragua," "Support the Provisional Government of National Reconstruction."

The marchers shouted slogans such as, "Revolution yes, Intervention no," and "Sandinista power, now is the hour." At a little past 1PM the crowd gathered at the Civic Center and speeches were given in both Spanish and English. The rally ended in singing.

Roberto Gurdian, spokesman for the Gay People For The Nicaraguan Revolution contingent, stated that he has personal contacts with members of the F.S.L.N. He told B.A.R. that these contacts will help make them aware that there is no great difference between Gays and straights. Roberto also stated that the Sandinista activists with whom he works have accepted him. He said that if more Nicaraguan Gays would come out, things would change a lot faster.

There is a woman in charge of the revolutionary council in Leon, the largest city held by the Sandinistas, Gurdian said. Women in Nicaragua are fighting side by side with the men,

which will help women's liberation, and in turn might help Gay liberation.

Gurdian is trying to build up organizations here and then he is planning to go back to Nicaragua for the reconstruction.

When Gurdian was told that a Nicaraguan Lesbian called him a dreamer he said, "Yes, but dreams can come true."

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Community United Against Violence (CUAV)

A REPORT ON WHAT'S HAPPENING, WHAT TO DO & WHAT NOT TO DO

By James Andrew Nicholas

Violent attacks on Gay people are happening often, and everywhere in San Francisco. The gang attacks on Gays can be stopped if we all work together.

The following are a sampling of incidents from reports made to CUAV:

East Bay Terminal - 9:00pm
Two Lesbians, three White males - age 50. Following anti-Gay remarks, women assaulted and chased down ramp. No injuries resulted. Whistles not used.

Webster and Page Streets - 7:45pm - Gay man, two Black males - ages 15 and 20. Following anti-Gay remark, victim tackled from behind. Minor injuries, victim robbed. Whistle not used. Police response time: three hours.

On #6-Parnassus MUNI bus, traveling down Haight Street - 6:00pm - Gay man, six Black males - age 20. Assault with anti-Gay remarks. Victim escaped. Had no whistle.

18th & Diamond Streets - 12:30am - Gay man, six White males - age 20. One attacker began assault while other five surrounded victim making anti-Gay remarks. Victim escaped into corner bar, bartender refused to call police. Had no whistle.

18th & Hattie Streets - 2:30am - Gay man, two Chicano males - age 20. Threatened victim with clubs, robbed him of money, food stamps, and watch. Victim not injured. Had no whistle.

18th & Noe Streets - 5:30pm - Three Lesbians, seven Chicano males - ages 8 to 17. Assaulted after anti-Gay remarks, all three victims blew whistles, attackers fled.

Dolores Park near Hancock & Church Streets - 10:30pm - Gay man, four Blacks, two women and two men - age 17. Men assaulted victim while women observed. Victim called for help. Attackers just laughed until 20 respondents appeared, blowing whistles. Attackers chased, held for police. Victim not injured.

18th & Church streets - 6:00pm - Gay man, three Chicano males and one Black male - ages 17 to 20. Offered to sell Gay man drugs. When he said no, assaulted him with metal rods making anti-Gay remarks. Victim escaped by running to bus. Injuries included cuts and severe bruises to face. Had no whistle.

Women's Building, 18th & Guerrero Streets - 7:00pm - Two Lesbians, five Chicano males - age 25. As women entered corner store, two attackers threatened them with gun they claimed to have. Three men joined in with anti-Gay remarks. Victims managed to flee to safety, had no whistles.

Be aware; know that there is potential for attacks, so, exercise common sense. Some of the areas in which you should be particularly cautious after dark include:

Dolores Park; Mission High School; Collingwood Street from Market to 19th Street; Playground bounded by Collingwood, 19th, and Diamond Streets; Market Street at Noe, Sanchez, and Church Streets; Duboce Park; and the vicinity of 18th and Valencia Streets.

Help CUAV to help you! We



C.U.A.V. co-chairs Karen Schneider and Greg Mahaney accept donation from owner Walt Jebe with patrol member J. Andrew Nicholas.

want to have the Patrol out three nights each weekend, covering all areas where there is a concentration of attacks. You can make for a safer, rewarding feeling by contributing to the efforts of CUAV. Volunteer your time, money, equipment or services. We need people and resources to do the job. Until our report line is installed, volunteer at our

Whistle Table, Open Meetings, or by calling 552-9673 or 552-1644.

REMEMBER — Love for one another unites us . . . express that love . . . watch over your brothers and sisters, and respond when they need you!

James Andrew Nicholas

Womanalysis

Cops and Robbers

by Priscilla Alexander

Percolating in my mind on this very hot day are Feinstein's demand for Gain's resignation and the eeriness of Robert Opel's murder.

In demanding that Charles Gain resign by January 8, Mayor Feinstein has reaffirmed her commitment to a special interest group, but it is not us. The police, like the CIA, the FBI, the National Guard, and the military establishment are the control arm of the industrial establishment that generally controls this country. The struggle in this city over the direction of the police department is being waged in parallel with the struggle of other cities, and the question is, who will control the police department, the majority (poor and middle

to make sure the police officers assigned to work there did their jobs. But the attitude of the P.O.A. is that he went because he was immoral, implying all other police-men (and I mean men in this case) are proper, upstanding, moral, monogamous, or celibate human beings, who never have anything to do with prostitutes except to arrest them. Well, it just isn't so.

There may be honorable men on the vice squad, but there are also some who grab at the breasts of hookers they are about to arrest, and many have gotten blow jobs as they collected information, or in exchange for a promise not to arrest, and sometimes before the arrest. In New Orleans

"Police attitudes towards prostitutes often include horror and disgust . . . Why?"

class, minorities) or the minority (the rich)?

The newspaper put out by the Police Officers Association (the source of public opposition to Gain) is full of the kind of attitudes that are fostered by the power structure of this competitive society. One long article in a recent issue criticizes multilingual programs and ballots because immigrants should be "Americanized," and then goes on to attack welfare programs, and so on.

Other writers, including Officer Chignell (who welcomed White when he turned himself in) complain once again about Chief Gain's presence at the Hookers' Ball two years ago. Gain attended the ball in order

(another city entirely, I know) there is one officer who has a reputation for having a blow job with every hooker he busts, sometimes four or more in one day. One of his victims was the head of the New Orleans counterpart to Coyote, Passion.

The recent stories in the newspapers about sexual harassment of at least some of the women officers in the department further erode this pure image. Perhaps only one officer was unable to deflect the sexual attentions of her male counterpart, but most of the women who said there was no harassment in fact indicated that there was. They said it was no problem, so long as they kept on saying no, no, no. I wonder if the male officer who

is concerned with "homos" in the locker room is one of the men who "flirts" with the women officers, who then must convince him that they are not interested.

The very same Vice officers who were so horribly offended by the sexual activity they witnessed as they set up the Gay male sex clubs, are the ones who spend most of their time setting up women to engage in the same acts, and then busting them on prostitution charges. They are probably disgusted by those acts when they are heterosexual, as well, being products of a society that has pretty rotten attitudes about sex.

The attitudes towards prostitutes that I have picked up in most of my conversations with male police officers, and even some members of the Sheriff's Department, include horror and disgust. And I don't think it has a whole lot to do with the ancillary crime that some of them like to mention, or the VD, or the drugs, or even the pimps. I think it is the horror that these prostitutes, particularly women, are breaking the sexual code by engaging promiscuously in sex, and especially that they are aggressive about it.

Perhaps the seat of their horror is that they are upset by their own sexual urges and thoughts, which perhaps they think they should be able to control. If sex is dirty, then prostitutes are even dirtier.

Although this may not seem to have much to do with Feinstein's demand for Gain's resignation, it is noteworthy that this attitude towards prostitutes is actively encouraged by the Hotel Association and the Chamber of Commerce who are always calling for "clean-ups" of the Tenderloin, get the dirty hookers off our doorstep, etc. Quentin Kopp has been a major spokes-man for that view, and Feinstein is a spokes-woman, as evidenced by her resolve not to let prostitutes run

this city (sound like her comments about Gays?).

The attitude towards prostitutes, which has nothing to do with concern for them as victims of abuse, is really a kind of iceberg tip of the attitude towards the poor. Blame the poor for their problems, they wouldn't get pregnant if they didn't have sex, if they get pregnant they have to accept the consequences, they should pull themselves up by their own bootstraps, etc. Clean them off the streets, out of the city, make them go away, if we didn't have poor people we wouldn't have any problems. Actually, the last part of that statement is almost true, but my solution is different from theirs.

I don't think Gain is perfect. He is stiff and unbending a lot of the time, and I think he should acknowledge the feelings of people (both police officers and civilians) who tell him of problems. But he has instituted good changes in the department. And he has managed to eliminate most of the overt sexism from his language, saying police officer, patrol officer, beat patrol, etc., in marked contrast to Captain Jeffrey, said to be an aspirant to the job, who has much more camaraderie, but who says police man, beat man, patrol man, man hours, etc. Unless the next police chief is a reformer, as Gain is, which means he will probably be hated by the rank and file, our city will have lost a lot.

The murder of Robert Opel seems very strange. It is strange that someone who staged a mock execution of Dan White on Gay Freedom Day should die so soon after, and it is strange that his accused murderer should escape before being arraigned. That other pornographer, Larry Flynt, said he was shot because of his offer of one million dollars for information on the JFK assassination. Was Robert Opel murdered because of what he said about White?

Priscilla Alexander

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D.A. Charged With Campaign Violations

Beleaguered District Attorney Joseph Freitas was accused this week of failing to dis-

close a \$2,500 gift from the Portuguese government in a financial report last year.

San Francisco Assistant Attorney General Arlo Smith called upon the San Francisco grand jury to commence removal proceedings against Freitas. In May 1977, Freitas took a two-week trip to Portugal; although Freitas was required to report the trip by April 1, 1978, he failed to do so until over a year later.

Smith said that "by Freitas' own standards for prosecution of such cases, he should be removed from office."

Freitas defended his late filing saying that he was unaware that gifts from the Portuguese, or any other foreign, government were required on San

Francisco disclosure statements. Said Freitas, "It was an inadvertent oversight."

Smith countered, "Just recently Freitas' office prosecuted an unsuccessful supervisorial candidate who allegedly failed to properly report \$59, Freitas' status as San Francisco's chief law enforcement official, plus the high value of his improperly reported gift make his offense more serious." The District Attorney's office is currently investigating Supervisor Quentin Kopp's acceptance of campaign funds from Pier 39 developer Walter Simmons.

The matter now rests with the state Fair Political Practices Committee. If the state fails to take action, San Francisco Democratic Club president Judith Reel has threatened to take Freitas to court herself. Reel told B.A.R. that though she is reluctant to take such action, "If our public officials don't do their jobs and prosecute this man, I will be forced to have my attorney bring an action."

Freitas could be required to pay \$2,500 in civil penalties if successfully sued by either Reel or any of the agencies which have been requested to act.

Freitas' career, which is seen by many to be hanging on the political ropes for his handling of the Dan White case and his vengeful prosecution of those arrested May 21, is also challenged by Supervisor Carol Ruth Silver in the November election.

Witnesses and Photographs Needed

Witnesses of the May 21 beatings on Castro and photographers who took photographs of police beatings are needed. To help identify those officers who were responsible, your photographs and/or statements of what you saw are desperately needed. Please call Rick Stokes at 863-2312 between 9AM and 5PM.

Anti-Gay Vote Readied for Congress

Washington, D.C.

According to Washington's Gay newspaper *The Blade*, a measure to put Congress on record supporting the right of employers to discriminate against Gays is being prepared by Congressman Larry McDonald (D-Ga.). The move will receive strong support from the newly-formed fundamentalist lobby, Christian Voice.

The measure, which would express the will of Congress and not be passed as law, comes in response to the Gay rights bill now in Congress and the overall success Gays have achieved, Gary Jarmin, Christian Voice lobbyist, said in an interview with *The Blade*.

"This would basically be our answer to the Gays' bill in Congress which would make it discriminatory to deny someone their job because of their sexual preference," Jarmin said.

"We're not saying Gays shouldn't be allowed to work. What we're against is the government making it possible for any Gay person to sue an employer for discrimination," said Jarmin.

"We want to let Congress know there is an opposition so they will know in unmistakable terms they're not going to get away with it," Jarmin said. "Once we stir up enough interest, and generate some letters to Congress, I don't think it (the Gay rights bill) has a chance of passing." Jarmin says Christian Voice can count on 100,000 members and that the evangelical community can be expected to send in hundreds of thousands of letters.

"A vote for that bill is not going to gain much for anyone," Jarmin said. "Especially not for moderate Democratic congressmen, where they have a

very strong Christian community. They're going to be pretty upset if they find Congressman John Doe voted for homosexuals."

"There's a lot of pressure from the Gays. Gays are getting more active than they've ever been," said Jarmin. "Hundreds of thousands of them marched in New York and San Francisco. This kind of stuff has been going on all over the country and we want to let Congress know there is an opposition."

The success of Gay political activism, as well as criminal code reforms, made framing a resolution more difficult, McDonald's office said.

"After doing some research on the laws of the fifty states, we've got to make an about-face," admitted Gary Orlando, McDonald's legislative aide. "The criminal codes have been under revision in a lot of states, particularly in the past three years, and that alters the kind of bill we're going to produce. There has been a lot of humanism in the country."

Orlando said the initial draft rested on the belief that homosexual conduct was uniformly illegal under criminal statutes, but that reform of consensual sodomy laws blocked that approach.

The success of Gays in enlisting civil rights groups also handicapped their effort, Orlando said.

"You have a group of individuals floating around under flowery ideals of civil rights, when you really have a group that is trying to legitimize quite a vulgar activity. It's an abomination," Orlando said.

County Official Destroys Gay Exhibit

Ashland, OR

The Public Library here displayed an exhibit for Gay Pride Week during the month of June. Ashland is a small, rural town about six hours south of Portland and six hours north of San Francisco. A local Lesbian member of Portland Town Council, Oregon's major Gay civil rights organization, did background lobbying for the display. PTC provided the materials for the exhibit, which caused a great deal of controversy culminating with the head of the Jackson County Library system going over the heads of the Ashland Library Board and the library manager and personally tearing down the exhibit three days before its three-week run was to end. (The library manager was out of town when the official took his action.)

In a letter to Portland Town Council co-chair Jerry Weller, the Ashland Lesbian responsible for the exhibit who wishes to remain anonymous stated, "I feel good about it; it certainly opened up a dialogue, which was my purpose." The letters to the local newspaper have been running 50-50 for and against the exhibit. It has caused considerable local comment.

"If the Gay movement had more people such as our PTC

member in Ashland, our message would be heard everywhere and our civil rights faster and easier to attain," stated Mr. Weller.

Buses Must Carry Gay Ads

Washington, D.C.

Federal Judge John H. Pratt ruled July 6 that Gay activists have as much right to advertise on Washington area buses as do religious groups, anti-abortionists, and Communist Party candidates.

The U.S. District judge ruled that the Washington Metro Area Transit Authority cannot refuse to accept the Gay Activist Alliance's advertising. Since the Authority "has created a public forum for political and social advertisements" it cannot deny any group its First Amendment right of free speech.

On March 21, 1978, the Gay Alliance filed a written request for space. They proposed an ad that showed several photographs of Washingtonians displayed against a family photo album. A caption read, "Someone in your life is Gay."

Six months later the Transit Authority rejected the Gay Alliance's request for space.



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SOUTH-BAY CHRONICLE

Gay Library Exhibit Opens at Oakland Main Library in Three-County Tour

A display focusing on Oakland area homosexuals — present and past — has opened at Oakland's Main Library, 124 14th St., Oakland, through August 7.

The exhibit depicts how Lesbians and Gay men locally and nationally are coming "out of the closets" and into the mainstream of society, refusing to hide their homosexuality.

Included are books, records, photographs, magazines, newspapers, and artwork — some available in local libraries — by Gays ranging from Gertrude Stein, Clarkson Crane, and Pat Parker locally to Malcolm Boyd, Radclyffe Hall, and Tennessee Williams nationally.

"Many Oakland residents don't even know that Oakland has the major Lesbian recording company and feminist press," said John Dupree, director of education at the Pacific Center, a Berkeley-based mental health and social services agency for Gay people. "So we're trying to introduce the public to the famous and not-so-famous people — like the mechanic next door or the lawyer down the street — who happen to be Lesbians or Gay men."

The library exhibit is one of many educational programs sponsored by the Pacific Center to help combat destructive stereotypes of homosexuals.

"We want to promote understanding between homosexuals and the rest of the world, which generally has negative feelings

toward Lesbians and Gay men," according to Kristen Loomis, a Lesbian bibliographer working on the library project. "People frequently don't realize that we come in all ages, races, sizes, and occupations. This library display is one way to show that we are — and always have been — everywhere."

After the exhibit leaves Oakland Main Library, it will continue to tour other libraries in Alameda, Contra Costa, and San Francisco Counties. For further info, call 548-8283.

Alameda Crowns

AN EAST BAY DREAM COME TRUE

The Alameda County Imperial Empire has set September 16, 1979, as the date for Coronation '79.

Candidates for the first A.C.I.E. Emperor are Ed Paulson and Tony Valentine, and for first Empress, Suzie, ChaCha and Adrien.

The A.C.I.E. is the culmination of effort of many people who have high hopes for the new court. Seen as another method of bringing East Bay people together and unified, as well as giving the East Bay the spot in the ever-growing Gay society it so richly deserves. Folks in the East Bay who have traditionally kept away from courts might try getting involved with the A.C.I.E.; it will be different. For information call Jim Fries at the Get-A-Way, 582-2310, or any East Bay bar.

GAY GRAPHICS
& TYPESETTING
1528 15th St. 861-7232

Points South, East, & North

Gay Rights Coming to San Jose

by Gene

The San Jose City Council has voted 6 to 1 approving in concept a Gay rights ordinance.

The ordinance would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in the areas of employment, housing and public accommodations. Proposed penalties would emerge from civil actions of awards from \$200 to \$5,000.

The council has instructed

the San Jose City Attorney to draft the ordinance and return it next month. Gay people on hearing the vote stood and cheered for close to two minutes.

Meanwhile, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors is considering a similar ordinance.

SAN JOSE

Sunday, July 22, Carla & Company will present "Disco

Dreams" at the Toyon. Showtime is 9PM; door charge is \$3. Guest stars will be included.

Saturday, July 28, Emperor II Bill will present an auction at the Renegades at 7PM with guest auctioneers.

Sunday, July 29, is the annual G.G.T. picnic at Saratoga Springs. Admission is \$8 advance, \$10 at the gate, and includes a steak barbecue, all the beer you can drink, and the usual games and cruising. For more information, call the Tinkers Damn at 243-4595.

Saturday, August 11, has been set as the date for Coronation '79. A theme of "Saturday Night at the Movies" will prevail. Doors open at 6PM; admission is \$10. Coronation '79 will be held at Napredak Hall. For reservations or information call 297-6262.

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Congratulations are in order for Rosalie Nichols and Johnie Staggs, who have been elected to the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union as directors. The ACLU has a solid record of support for the rights of Gays and women and is in need of your support. Membership is \$20 a year; contact Santa Clara Valley Chapter of ACLU, P.O. Box 215, Los

Gatos, CA 95030. If you feel your civil liberties have been violated, call (408) 293-2584 to report the violation.

PENINSULA

The Answer in Redwood City will feature Disco nightly from 9 till 2 and a Country Variety Show every Sunday from 4 till 9. Featured on Tuesday nights will be Disco lessons with Chuck Zinn from 7:30 till 9:30. All these activities start Sunday, July 29. Check it out!

SACRAMENTO

Lady Garnet will present a bus trip to the Reno Gay Rodeo on Saturday, Aug. 4. The bus will leave the Hide-and-Seek at 8AM and will return at 8:30PM. Round trip fare is \$16 per person and will include refreshments on the bus and entrance to the rodeo. For information call (916) 371-2474.

Congratulations are in order to all of those who made Sacra-

mento's first Gay Freedom Day Parade a success. Lots of hard work and effort went into the day.

Sunday, Aug. 12, C.H.R.A. will hold a family picnic at East Portal Park from 11AM to 5PM. There will be an egg toss, all manner of ball games, and good old-fashioned fun. Pack a basket of goodies and come along with a friend. T-shirts, beer and soft drinks will be on sale.

HAYWARD

The next meeting of H.E.R.O. will be August 15 and new officers will be elected. For information call President Frank Frommelt at 881-9877. Hayward Equal Rights will hold their annual picnic on Sunday, Aug. 5, at Hidden Valley Ranch from 10AM to 7PM. There will be live music, swimming, ball events, a dance contest, and free food. Tickets are \$7 and proceeds will benefit Hayward Equal Rights, Hayward Gay Sheriff and Float Committee, and California Human Rights Advocates.

Saturday, July 28, at 10PM, Manuel and Cary will present a "Night of Nostalgia and Comedy" at the Get-A-Way. Special guest star Mr. Dolly and an unknown drag queen (that could be one of a million) will be on hand to entertain. There will be a buffet, and the admission of only \$3 will benefit Suzie for Empress.

OAKLAND with Nez Pas

Big news in Oakland this week is the wedding of Carlos Vargas and Chuck Sheppard. Held at the Lake Merritt Hotel,

this was one of the most beautiful weddings held in a long time within the Gay community. Kepa and Ron of the United Harmony Church, a non-denominational congregation located at 234 Oakland Ave., Oakland, officiated. The champagne flowed endlessly, and of the ten or more groom maids and maidens, dressed in white, two notables were Queen Mother Jeane (of ALL California) and the ever-popular Fat Fairy.

Terry Chandler & Debbie Karsel on the 20th & 21st; Diana Caparelli on the 26th, and will wind up the month with Nancy Lamott on the 27th & 28th. Be sure to check out the new decor which should be completed by next weekend.

Don't forget the Early Bird Specials at the Revol, available from 6 till 7:30PM, complete with entree and low prices. You will like the quality and the service.

The Zephyr will feature in their Club Car Showroom

Gene



David P. Steward, Chairman of the Santa Clara Human Relations Commission, has been elected President of the California Association of Human Rights Organizations (CAHRO) last month in Palo Alto. Steward told B.A.R., "I look forward to an exciting year. Although I represent people who are specialists in human rights, many are less than consciousness-raised regarding Lesbian/Gay people, to say the least."

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Sacramento Show

On August 11, 1979, First Lady-in-Waiting Judy McGehee is directing the biggest show that Sacramento has ever seen — ENTERTAINATHON '79 — a variety show so grand it will include at least 20 great and unusual performers: professional and amateur, men and women, straight and Gay, singers, mimes, dancers, musicians, and comics, all of whom are voluntarily appearing free of charge by waiving their salaries and expenses.

ENTERTAINATHON '79 is a benefit show with 80% of the ticket sales donated to the California Human Rights Advocates. The remaining 20% will be given to the Great Northwest Imperial Empire and will cover other expenses.

Tickets are only \$5; show time is 6PM till 2AM, with after hours at Joseph's, 7604 Fair Oaks Blvd. For ticket reservations or information, call (916) 920-2148 after 4:30PM daily.

Grand Opening in Hayward

Saturday, July 28, is the day of the Grand Opening of BIG MAMA'S (formerly the Chandelier) at 22615 Mission Blvd. Your hosts will be Jim (Big Mama) and Ray. The staff includes Maggie, Gay Sheriff II Steve, and Wayne. There will be surprise entertainment, a free buffet and an exclusive showing of the color video tapes of the Gay Freedom Day Parade by John Lawrence.

Everyone involved, especially Jim and Ray, is to be congratulated. Their many hours of work have begun to bear fruit. The bar will be totally remodeled and the new look is outstanding.

Reno Gay Rodeo August 3, 4, 5

August 3-5 has been set for the annual Reno Gay Rodeo. Events include a Barbecue, a Barn Dance, and the Rodeo itself, which will include bareback riding, roping, barrel racing, wild cow milking, bulldogging and greased pig events. An all-around Cowboy prize of \$500 is in the offering.

Phil Ragsdale, Emperor I of Reno, is again the Director this year and will do the same outstanding job he has been known for in the past. Accommodations are available at the Golden Road Motor Lodge (call toll free 1-800-328-5511 and ask for Darlene) or at the B-Jay Motel (call 322-2230 and ask for Sam or Neal).

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ENTERTAINMENT

Film:

LA CAGE AUX FOLLES

(BIRDS OF A FEATHER)

COMEDY TAKES GAY FLIGHT

Transvestites get me nervous. Female impersonators make me edgy. LA CAGE AUX FOLLES is about a female impersonator who stars at the night club of his 20-year lover. And through an hour and a half of hilarious comedy any edgy nervousness is erased. This film comes to us in the style of LA GRANDE BOUFFE — it is a frothy farce — sort of "The Importance of Being Ernest" meets "Charley's Aunt."



LA CAGE AUX FOLLES, a hilarious French comedy on show biz transvestites now at the Four Star Theater.

The story takes place at a nightclub, La Cage Aux Folles, and the owner's overdecorated apartment above the club. Zaza (Michael Serrault), the star of the club, and Renato, the owner (Ugo Tognazzi) are celebrating their 20th anniversary with one of their daily spats. In walks Renato's son, who announces he is to marry — a girl. Renato and Zaza are not particularly overjoyed. They had hopes Laurent would see the light and bring home a man. But then to add insult to injury he tells his father that the girl's father is the Minister of the French Morals Squad. He talks his father into meeting the minister and his wife.

Meanwhile, the minister (Michel Galabru) has troubles of his own. The President of France has just died at a whorehouse in the arms of a black prostitute. To escape the press, he agrees to go out of town to meet his in-laws. Finally the two couples meet for the sake of the children. And the fun begins, a laugh-fest comedy of errors.

The Gay men are portrayed as stereotyped swishers from the 50's or early 60's. But they do so with such conviction and honesty that we accept them this way. Zaza, of course, has played a woman so long that that's the only behavior he knows. Renato is a borderline case. When he tells Zaza to be macho for the evening of the minister's visit, he does his demonstrative impression of John Wayne and promptly gets punched out in a bar.

Renato and Zaza are the only two homosexuals in the story except for Jacob, their

black man-maid who also helps out by taking off his maid's uniform for the evening and puts on a butler's outfit. Jacob then adds for effect a big, black dude voice and does everything super-spadey but sing "Ol' Man River."

LA CAGE AUX FOLLES is based on a long-running stage play by Jean Poiret. The film has been wildly successful throughout Europe. The French-Italian production was directed smashingly by Edouard Molinaro who has been able to treat the Gay theme lovingly and naturally. Because there is no condescension, it achieves a universality which tickles everybody's funnybone.

(The short playing with LA CAGE AUX FOLLES had the Four Star audience howling. I won't say any more other than it is an Italian cartoon about conception.)

Michael Lasky

Sugar at Jacques

Jon Sugar, rock and roll queen and avant-garde libertine, will appear at Chez Jacques, 1390 California St. near Hyde, on Sunday, July 22, at 11pm.

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Renato Baldi (Ugo Tognazzi, R.) gives instructions to his maid, Jacob (Benny Luke, L.) in *LA CAGE AUX FOLLES*.

Stage:

THE CRUCIBLE

Recently Arthur Miller remarked on Dick Cavett's show that his play, *THE CRUCIBLE*, enjoys resurrection just before or just after periods of social injustice and minority struggle. Written as Miller's scathing reaction to the Joseph McCarthy/House Un-American Activities Committee

attacks of the early 50's, *THE CRUCIBLE* is a dramatic account of the actual witchhunts prevalent in Massachusetts in the early 17th Century.

Director Phil Bennett of the Ensemble of Stanislavski Theatre Artists relates in the program notes of their current

production: "I was drawn to *THE CRUCIBLE* during the highly emotional climate of the Spring and Summer of 1978, when a 'witchhunt' was being conducted by Anita Bryant, John Briggs and others." Though Bennett further states that the political interpretation of the play shifted during rehearsals, the strength of Miller's indictment of religious hypocrisy used to rationalize political persecution, ruin reputations, and even murder the innocent in the name of "Justice" remains intact.

Even though the play holds up reasonably well after all this time, I still have a problem with Miller's dry and detailed style which has so much information repeated so often in dialogue. His best talent has always been the in-depth rendering of characters in conflict who care for each other, as this production shows all too clearly. The larger group scenes are not nearly as effective as the intimate — with the exception, of course, of the courtroom hysteria in Act II which is one of the most brilliant in theater history.

Therefore, one mistake that is made here is in not editing Miller's excessive verbiage. Given the uncomfortableness of the theater space at Fort Mason, even the numerous assets of ESTA's production are not enough to make the evening totally enjoyable when the lengthiness of the play is added. An urgent voice in my head kept repeating: "For

God's sake, get on with it!"

Nevertheless, there are definite glories. Stanislavski, the Russian actor/director who took the time and trouble to analyze and write down what makes acting work, still lives. While the application of his principles sometimes lend a aura of grand opera in terms of extravagant gesture and the merry-go-round effect of subdued ferocity followed by overly emotional screeching, the acting reaches peaks of excellence throughout that leave one exhausted in a very healthy way. You're pulled through the wringer, in other words, and love it.

One minor detriment in terms of the casting is that many of the characters in Miller's play are older folk and the majority of ESTA's actors are young, which makes the excess makeup and obviousness of the youth of some of the actors a distraction. Initially. Interestingly, and to their credit, most of the actors supercede this limitation. There is only one instance of a poorly conveyed characterization in one of the major roles of Act II, which is amazing with as large a cast as this.

Especially commendable are the three principals — Kent Fillmore as a strong yet sensitive John Proctor, Dolores Cunningham's austere and vulnerable Elizabeth Proctor, and JoAnne Lucich's icily arch and vindictive Abigail Williams.

Also carrying themselves superbly in the supporting cast are Anne Neuwald, Cynthia Cristilli, Michael Schreiber and Patricia Alison Walker.

Director Phil Bennett deserves accolades for what is truly exemplary work in rendering some of the most astonishingly fine staging I've yet seen in the Bay Area. Bennett takes daring chances with both his actors and technical effects, and there isn't a single serious flaw anywhere.

This is, I realize, a rather somber critique. Necessarily so, I think. Miller's play is a serious one and ESTA's production is a highly specialized experience. It is a must for those involved in theater. And, regardless of minor reservations, this presentation of Miller's answer to the evils of political suppression, relevant to this period of history, is highly recommended. The special relevance to Gays in this city where queer-baiting, harassment and attacks are on the rise, even by those hired to protect our rights, hardly needs emphasis.

THE CRUCIBLE continues at Fort Mason Center (Laguna and Marina) through July 29. Call 921-0508 for reservations — get there early and sit down front.

Ray P. Comeau

Film: MOONRAKER

MORE GIMMICKS AND GADGETS FROM 007

Because all the inventiveness and originality of the James Bond films were off by about the fourth one, the producers have had to rely with each succeeding film on technical gimmickry to dazzle audiences. But now it's gotten to the point where even gadgets and mission impossible fireworks do not prevent ennui from setting in after the first 30 minutes. Why even Roger Moore as "007" does everything but yawn in this film. The salacious sex that was prevalent in the early films is tame comic book nonsense now.

MOONRAKER is nothing more than comicbook sequences arranged purely and deliberately as set ups for the operations of yet another gimmick gadget with which Bond is outfitted. The villain Drax (Michael Lonsdale) is about as menacing as an alleycat, and the nice lady Holly Goodhead (Lois Chiles) is unsurprisingly demure. Since previous Bond pictures have taken us to every exotic locale on the globe, in *MOONRAKER* we get to go into studio set outer space. Naturally the space station is destroyed in lots of flashy explosions, but that is the least of the wanton destruction and waste in this film. The producer Albert R. Broccoli is proud of the \$22+ million spent on this production. If ever there proved to be a better ode to the fruitless waste of resources, *MOONRAKER* is it.

In the press release given to reviewers it is made completely clear about "the enormity of it all: Some 22,000 man hours (or one man's lifetime) was spent on set construction to build at least 40 houses. The electronic equipment used could furnish half a dozen Concorde and the amount of electricity burned would keep an average family household happily supplied for a hundred years or more. For one special effects scene about \$60,000 of

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Pop: Up, Coming & Choice

By Adam Block

DANCE TO NEW WAVE 'N' ROCK: Mondays continue to feature the most radical and inventive playlist in the city. Come early to miss lines. Wednesdays and Sundays it's rock spiked with disco. I have seen rock-disco future, and it is Mondays at the Stud — post-clone, women welcome. (12th & Folsom, 8pm-2am, No Cover)

CHARLES PIERCE: Female impersonation in the grande tradition: Pierce is a local institution and world-class entertainer. Not to be missed! (The City, July 19-7, Wed-Sun, 9&11, \$5.50 adu/\$6.50 show)

TEDDY WILSON: One of the greatest and most tasteful of jazz pianists, Wilson discovered Billie Holiday and was a star in Benny Goodman's trio of the 30's. Distillations of the work of Tatum, Hines, Waller, and Johnson from one of the greats. (Redantes, July 19-21, 8/10/11:30, \$7.50)

DEAD KENNEDYS, ROTTERS, VIPS, PUNTS: KSAN's heretics show, featuring homo-extraordinaire Howie Klein, celebrates their second anniversary with this audacious line-up. The Kennedys' "California Uber Alles" is nearly as legendary as the Rotters' "Sit On My Face Stevie Nicks." Minors and minors welcome. (Mabuhay Gardens, July 24, 11pm, \$2)

JIM CARROLL: This poet turned rocker is a revelation. The influences are Reed, Morrison, and Jagger; Rilke, Rimbaud, and Baudelaire — with a dose of Wm. Burroughs and Patti Smith. Call the club to see if the show will be at 8:30 or 11:00 and they will deny the reliable rumors that Ms. Smith will be a special guest. (Mabuhay Gardens, July 26, \$3)

SHAUN CASSIDY: I used to be a skeptic until I saw his stunning kiddie-porn Mick Jagger posturings on t.v. which left me shaking. Truly progressive fans may be traumatized at choosing between the wonder-boy and Ms. Smith. (UC Berkeley Greek Theatre, July 27, 8pm, \$8.50 adu/\$9.50 show)

PATTI SMITH GROUP: She's a wild card who has often disappointed but last year's Winterland show was a totally exhilarating triumph. At her best the lps are only a pale reflection. (Oakland Auditorium Arena, July 27, \$7.50 adu/\$8.50 show)

JOHN HANDY, ALI AKBAR KHAN, ZAKIR HUSSAIN, BOLO SETE, L. SUBRANIAN: East meets West with some Latino percussive touches, and these local welterweights generally leave the fans ecstatic. (Great American Music Hall, July 27, 9&11:30, \$7)

ROBERT FRIPP: The mastermind of King Crimson brings his 3-hour opus show, Frippertronics, to a yeasty club. It'll be a man and his machines charting musical frontiers. Buy early! (Mabuhay Gardens, July 28-30, 8pm, \$4.50)

DAN HICKS: The genius of laconic swingtime and acerbic wit not has a tasty little trio behind him. He may still be listed under Bar Fixtures in the Marin Yellow Pages, but he's got a brass plate in my pantheon. (Great American Music Hall, 8:30, \$6)

JIMMY BUFFETT, CHRISTA BURGH: Mellow wit from Margueritaville with the Coral Reefer Band, and an Anglo-progressive crooner opening could make for a lovely afternoon under the open sky. (UC Greek Theatre, July 29, 2pm, \$8.50 adu/\$9.50 door)

PERE UBU, PINK SECTION: Pere Ubu are America's most fascinating and alarming art/rock band; the new wave's greatest cult group. Pink Section may be the nation's worst art/rock band; a local pollution. An instructive billing that the cognoscenti will be bragging about for months. (Old Waldorf, July 31, 8&11, \$5 adu/\$6 show)

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black velvet material was needed.

"Thirty-two boats, five helicopters and 80 individual transport vehicles consuming approximately 100,000 gallons of fuel were employed. In the 54 days of shooting, 10,800 pounds of meat, 27,000 eggs, 40,500 bread rolls, 6,750 pounds of potatoes and over 50,000 bottles of wine, beer, and soft drinks were consumed."

No wonder there are shortages today with the abuse of resources spent on such a dubious enterprise! Save your \$4 on the ticket to this movie; spend it on something more useful—like four gallons (if that much) of gasoline.

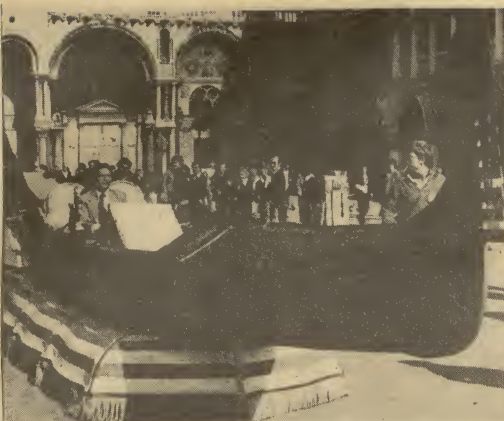
Michael Lasky

Film:

BLOODLINE

AUDREY HEPBURN LOOKING SMASHING AT 50...

Sidney Sheldon's bestselling novel was as trashy as they come—a great read for the beach or bathroom. It had lots of wooden characters doing all



Roger Moore, 007's latest, MOONRAKER gimmicks galore including a gondola that converts to a hovercraft.

just pay. Irene Papas knows she is not in a Greek tragedy but that it's a tragedy that she has to be in this. Omar Sharif surprisingly steals every scene he's in with a self-mocking buffonery that is suitably well timed and well oiled. Gert Frobe, famous for his title role in GOLDFINGER plays a scrupulous detective here and has devilish fun hamming it up.

Audrey Hepburn is also a delight to see. Here she plays a 35 year old heiress of the world's largest pharmaceutical fortune. Unfortunately, she seems to be on Quaaludes or else has been put to sleep by the script.

BLOODLINE has all the class of a rhinestone in a trash-can and the celerity of a garbage collector.

Michael Lasky

Dance:

Feets of Daring

High Moments at the SF Ballet

A large part of the thrill of ballet comes from watching the impossible happen before one's very eyes. When a dancer executes a dazzling series of leaps or turns, the shock of the moment forces the audience to suspend belief. Suddenly someone has defied gravity, time, and space by stretching his body to new kinetic limits. As a dancer grows, his capacity to astonish audiences increases by similar leaps and bounds. Accompanying this growth is a change in the audience's awareness of dancers and choreographers. Though at first stunned, the audience may become wary, suspicious and defiant, as if to say "C'mon, show me! I DARE you to fool me again!"

As the eye gets teased into stretching the limits of belief, the choreographer's imagination is tempted to find new ways to work its trickery on the audience and dancers. Lew Christensen's ballet IL DIS-TRATTO tackles the challenge with a droll wit. At first, IL DIS-TRATTO seems innocent enough. Music by Hayden, costumes that could be used in any Balanchine piece, and the feel of a standard piece from the repertoire. Then something goes wrong. As the work progresses, not only do we get a look at some of the lunacy of trying to tie together dance patterns. Strange things start to happen. Suddenly there is an extra arm pulled from a group

The acting doesn't help too much either. There is Ben Gazzara—a fine actor—doing as little as possible to earn his inflated payroll check. He has a "Don't blame me, I only work here attitude" throughout. James Mason on the other hand works overtime to get his

A large part of the thrill of ballet comes from watching the impossible happen before one's very eyes. When a dancer executes a dazzling series of leaps or turns, the shock of the moment forces the audience to suspend belief. Suddenly



An international thriller, Sidney Sheldon's BLOODLINE becomes a showcase for an ageless Audrey Hepburn, seated next to perennial James Mason.



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"CLEARED FOR LANDING!" Alexander Filipov touches down from the heavens with far more grace and precision than Skylab in Michael Smuin's ballet *QUATTRO A VERDI*, to be performed in the San Francisco Ballet's summer season at the Geary Theatre.

of dancers. But there is no body attached to it! A leg falls to the side of the stage. Are there mannequins onstage, or are we being used as the dummies? We've been had.

"Okay," says the audience, conceding the joke. But they don't realize that Christensen plans to play dirty. There is a shift in stage mood and the blacklighting comes on. For a while we see only the bottom halves of the dancers, allowing us to concentrate with great seriousness on their footwork. Then suddenly a top half appears from nowhere! A few more disembodied arms follow suit. Finally, we are tricked into participating in a perverse pas de deux as the top and bottom halves of a dancer perform separately on each side of the stage. When they finally merge, the audience goes bananas. During this sequence, all feeling for the physical dimensions of the stage have vanished. The floor has disappeared. Elevations are no longer relevant. All that matters is whether or not we can believe our eyes.

On a more athletic level, the same disbelief occurs when someone performs feats of daring which stretch the athletic limits of a dancer. This is seen most often in the standard schmalz of a grand pas de deux. A ballerina knocks out 32 flawless fouettes, and the house resounds with cheering. Later she gets up on point and holds a balance just seconds more than one would have believed possible, and the audience gasps in awe. It's not much different than the circus.

Michael Smuin's *QUATTRO A VERDI* is a short piece for four dancers. It focuses on the technical execution of dance with exceptional daring. Particularly noticeable in this spring's season was Alexander Filipov's stunning work. Filipov is a short man with a strange barrel chest. It doesn't look as if he could manage the leaps he achieves. But sometimes there is a wicked glint in his eye, and Filipov is suddenly aloft, with the thrust of a 747 on takeoff. At that point the floor disappears underneath him, and he remains suspended in air for the briefest, but most breathtaking of moments.

When these moments occur,

time stops in a theater. The audience is transported into a world of disbelief, awe, and relief of physical tension. It is a brief moment of orgasmic energy; a strangely vicarious thrill with near cathartic effects. Its effects pass through an auditorium with a shudder of doubt, an eruption of applause, a quiet snicker, and then a quick relaxation of the body's tensions.

★ ★ ★

Next week the San Francisco Ballet begins its summer season at the Geary Theatre. When set in a much smaller auditorium than the Opera House, ballet achieves a special intimacy. One gets sucked into the physical energy of the evening as if being hauled in by a giant vacuum cleaner. If not careful, a dancer might miscalculate distances and land on your face! Check it out for a deeper level of audience involvement!!

George Heymont

Sculpture Show on Market

Hot Flash of America presents an exhibit of sculptures by Sophie Segalen and Peter Bracht. Custom face and body casting by Ms. Segalen and Mr. Bracht is available by appointment, Saturdays from 11am to 6pm.

In addition to the sculptures, Hot Flash is exhibiting "Out of the Closet" — cartoons from *THE CLOSET* by Gary de Maria.

Gallery Hours: Tuesday thru Saturday, 11am-6pm; Sunday, Noon-5pm.

The Ultimate Relationship

Swami Shantananda, head of Baba Muktananda's main meditation center in California, will speak on the Ultimate Relationship, Sunday, July 22, 7PM at the San Francisco Siddha Yoga Meditation Center, 710 Sanchez Street. Program will include Siddha meditation instruction. Free. For further information, call 285-8213.

Film:

Ermanno Olmi's

The Tree of the Wooden Clogs

"A PERFECT CINEMATIC EXPERIENCE"

Superlatives will have to suffice in describing Ermanno Olmi's Cannes Grand Prize winning film, for although there are not enough praising words in the dictionary to assign to this gem, they are all we have.

THE TREE OF THE WOODEN CLOGS is a little over three hours long. And even though there is no direct plot, no real actors, no beginning, middle, and end, as we have come to know them, the film moves through the time effortlessly. Somehow Olmi has captured a narrative method which mesmerizes the audience. We get caught up in the flow of events, in the lives of the people, never looking at our timepieces, never squirming in our seat.

What we get that is so captivating is a year in the life cycle of three peasant families who live on the estate of a feudal-type landlord. Although the action takes place at the turn of the century, it seems almost medieval with two-thirds of each family's harvest serving as rent to the landlord. The peasant families live a hard dawn-to-dusk life as they attend to their duties in the home and on the field. We watch the harvesting of crops, we watch the slaughtering of the pig, we watch the laundry before washed in the nearby river. Usually we would be bored with watching all this hard labor, but somehow Olmi has



THE TREE OF THE WOODEN CLOGS, 1978 Grand Prize winner at Cannes, now at the Surf Theatre. Franco Pilega stars in this epic homage to Italian peasantry.

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captured this life in such a way that we are at once transported into it. We magically leave the theater and ourselves into the simple beauty and bucolic poetry of the Italian countryside. The delicate Impressionistic photography of Olmi's helps here — we don't even mind the subtitles — this is perfect cinematic experience with the exacting blend of sight and sound.

We begin to feel such great compassion for mankind and all living things that when one family's cow becomes ill and mama goes to church to pray for its recovery, we are hoping also for a miracle.

The film mellows us and turns our rush-rush urban clocks off and for this ability alone I think Olmi has created a masterpiece.

The title sequence is perhaps the most touching. A peasant boy who has been privileged to get schooling breaks his wooden clogs on the way home one day. The father who

is besieged with financial problems, steals out at night and chops down one of the landlord's poplar trees in order to make a pair of new shoes. All through the night he whittles away to make the new shoes so that his son will attend school properly dressed. The essence of pure paternal love is caught here, and indeed the reverence for all life that the entire film owns is synthesized by this segment.

The performances of the nonactors are so genuine and understated it is difficult to believe that the people are really peasants and other people from the Bergamo countryside. Even Olmi's choice of music by Bach was genius for no other composer communicates feeling as well.

This is a not-to-be-missed treasure of cinematic art. It is one of the best movies I've ever seen in my life.

Michael Lasky

Symphony: POPS

THE SEASON BEGINS

On Saturday, July 7, the San Francisco Symphony opened its POPS season at the Civic Auditorium and it was a delight for everyone involved. Under the direction of Erich Kunzel the Symphony ran through a repertoire of semi-classical and popular music that was easy on the mind and the ears.

Three light classics opened the show: the Shostakovich "Festive Overture," the operatic "Vienna, City of My Dreams," and the polka and fugue from the dormant opera "Schwanda the Bagpiper," and all were accomplished with skillful merriment.

The guest artist of the evening was James Darren who followed with what was ostensibly his nightclub act. Darren, best known for his role as Moonoggie in the Gidget movies of the 60's, is still incredibly handsome and offered a low-key but thoroughly enjoyable performance of just under a dozen contemporary pop tunes including the "Gidget" theme.

Following a second brief intermission, Kunzel returned to lead the orchestra in an overture of show tunes followed by a retrospective of the Big Bands of the 20's, 30's and 40's, and a symphonic rendition of "Joy to the World." In the Big Band segment the orchestra recreated the sounds of such greats as Glenn Miller, Harry James, Count Basie and Paul Whiteman. It was especially apparent during this set how much the symphony members seem to enjoy this diversion from the more serious repertoire. One bass player was especially buoyant, smiling broadly and twirling his instrument at the end of several of the up-tempo pieces.

While the cavernous size of the Civic Auditorium leaves a lot to be desired soundwise, the decorative planters and bright cloths and candles on the main floor tables help to create a festive and casual atmosphere that blends with and augments the POPS music.

There are a variety of POPS programs throughout the month of July including a Salute to Glenn Miller — with Dancing on Friday the 27th. (Dare we??) Tickets are reasonable — as low as fifty-cents, and it's all a very pleasant summer diversion.

Mark Topkin



S.F. Repertory Company (19th & Collingwood) is presenting Joe Orton's LOOT. (L.) Robert Trumbull and (R.) Howard Swain star in what B.A.R. critic Mark Topkin terms "a superb play in a commendable production."



TV's James Darren served as Pops Concert guest artist

Stage: Joe Orton's LOOT

LOCAL TROUPE SCORES

First and foremost we should all be thankful to the San Francisco Repertory Company for bringing us a production of Joe Orton's LOOT.

It is one hilarious play, full of wit and wisdom couched in absurdist farce. It is the kind of play that, in viewing, urges you to want to buy a copy of the text just to savor the multitude of verbal gems that poke delicious fun at the church, marriage, government bureaucracies, lust, greed and assorted other human conditions.

Undertaking LOOT is no small challenge. It requires skillful direction and restrained acting lest the absurdity of the situation takes over and the subtlety is lost. It is to the credit of the S.F. Repertory Co. that their production avoids this pitfall. Vera De Martini's direction is brisk without becoming frantic, and the acting ranges from acceptable to excellent.

The story, briefly, involves a ne'er-do-well son who has committed a bank robbery and on the day of his mother's funeral decides to remove her body from the coffin and replace it with the stolen money to avoid detection by the police. Needless to say, an endless series of bizarre circumstances follow.

The best performance of the evening belongs to Robert Trumbull as Truscott, the inspector disguised as a man from the Water and Power Au-

thority. Howard Swain as Harold, the son, and Ray Jiroff as his cohort, Dennis, also have some fine moments.

Also to be commended is Fred Hartman for his excellent use of limited space in his set design.

LOOT is being performed Thursdays through Sundays until August 12 at the S.F. Repertory Co. (19th & Collingwood). For ticket information call 863-4859. This is a chance to see a superb play in a commendable production.

Mark Topkin

The David Grisman Quartet

AT THE GREAT AMERICAN MUSIC HALL

On the last weekend in June, in four sold out shows, The David Grisman Quartet displayed their bluegrass-jazz expertise.

Their sound is unique for Grisman alone has found a way to combine the twangy sounds of countrified bluegrass with the urban complexities of jazz without compromising either genre. Grisman of course plays jazz mandolin and more or less pioneered the field. Together with the bass player in his group, Todd Phillips, he began three years ago a magazine for mandolin enthusiasts called "Mandolin World." The sound of the instrument is sort of a sophisticated fiddle — its down home like the fiddle and clean like the violin.

The Quintet, comprised of Tony Rice on guitar, Darol Anger on violin and Mike Marshall on second mandolin, work hard to please in their 90 minute sets. What is so likeable about their music is the expertise in which it is played, the pleasing sound it makes, and the high spirits it creates. Even on the slower tunes there is a frenzied pace, an intensity, to the music that makes you want to rise out of your seat, hoot and holler, stomp your feet, and clap your hands. Grisman will be back at the Great American Music Hall in September with jazz violinist extraordinaire Stephane Grapelli. Opening for the Quintet was Jack Tempchin, a over the hill hippie type who sang a collection of infectious satirical songs such as "Killing Me Softly with Kung Fu," and "Mattress on the Move." And just as the audience warmed up to his schtick, his set was over.

Michael Lasky

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Tales of Tessi Tura

An Early Verdi and A Spoiled Verdi

by George Heymont

This year's San Diego Verdi Festival proved one point with crystal clarity. Religious zealots may be able to sing like angels, but they're a pretty dull bunch. Nor can they ever figure out which road leads to the Holy Land. Even Verdi learned that the story of the whore with a heart of gold will hold more water than those misguided Crusaders stomping around the Mesopotamian suburbs. The plot of I LOMBARDI ALLA PRIMA CROCIATA boggles the mind. There are Muslim women, Crusader knights and even a caveman! People were walking around at intermission desperately trying to figure out who did what to whom. The crucial question which emerged was: Just who the hell is Folco and why did he leave us with this bunch of lunatics??

NAME THAT TUNE

There was no question, however, about the fountain of music which gurgled through the course of the evening. This was LOMBARDI'S first production in the U.S. during this century and the opera's West Coast premiere. Like Massenet's LE ROI DE LAHORE, the evening shows a young composer before he has learned to trim back and discipline his work. Verdi pulls out every trick in the book to prove he can write, including one god-awful violin solo which would be a hit on the Lawrence Welk Show. LOMBARDI has some soaring music in its choral moments, its magnificent arias, ensembles, and of course, those thumping patriotic tunes. But there is an undeniable element of early Verdian shock to be heard, too. I found it fascinating to see the development of a composer and anticipate the genius to come. One gets to see hints of the brilliance Verdi achieved in his later works, as well as some of the

shading. Grown people were crying at the sheer beauty of the sound. Bergonzi was not surrounded by small talents, either. Paul Plishka sang magnificently as Pagano. Rico Serbo scored strong points as his rival brother, Arvino.

The difficult role of Giselda fell to Christina Deutekom, a Dutch soprano noted for her



"Dear God, please save me from directors who don't know what they're doing!!!" Violetta (Diana Soviero) meets an untimely death in Verdi's LA TRAVIATA.

bad habits which can hamper a young composer. One also draws a finer appreciation of Verdi's more subtle, leaner dramatic style as his career grew.

The San Diego Opera's new production is indeed handsome. But then again, I'm a sucker for anything with turntables! What the evening does deliver is some gorgeous musicianship, especially from the men. That's why people turn to LOMBARDI. The audience was rewarded in full. Carlo Bergonzi, always in his prime, walked downstage and sent those notes shimmering out into the house like an old pro. Here was a chance to wallow in a definitive Verdian line, spun with exquisite phrasing and

work in many opera houses. There is something about Deutekom's voice that people either love or hate. I have never been turned on by her performances. The voice has many hues, but they often come out of left field and grate on one's ears. Her tendency to keep an eye locked on the conductor puts a strain on any dramatic credibility. And face it, LOMBARDI needs every bit of credibility it can muster. Many in the audience were bowled over by Deutekom's performance. I was left unmoved, but this is a decidedly minority opinion.

The production was directed with grace by Tito Capobianco, who, aided by Don Abrams' theatrical lighting, used Mario Vanarelli's unit set with great skill. I LOMBARDI is a long evening to cram into two acts. Mae West's words sum up Verdi's writing with keen insight: "When I'm good, I'm VERY good. And when I'm

BAD, I'm even better!!!"

SHOOT THE DIRECTOR!!!

This seems to be the year that directors are out to crucify LA TRAVIATA. Barbara Karp mauled the work mercilessly in San Francisco this Spring. God only knows what Jean-Pierre Ponnelle did to it in Houston! Charles Nelson Reilly put it on automatic pilot while he frantically searched for gimmicks to justify his presence as an opera director. There was no such justification in my eyes. The limp audience response proved that an almost indestructible vehicle, in a solid production, can fall flat on its face without a strong hand at the helm.

Reilly made a crucial mistake by concentrating on tiny details. Some had insight, others were so tiny that the audience could not catch them. Unfortunately, these gimmicks are fine

when a television camera is handy to zoom in and pick them up. But they can hardly be transmitted to the audience in a house the size of the Civic Theatre unless the director steers the audience's attention to what is about to happen. Reilly went so far off course as to have Violetta's death invisible to the audience because another singer was blocking the view. All of his bits of detail were never tied together to fill out the whole. Mr. Reilly may be the life of the party onstage, but bringing the party to life onstage and communicating is another story entirely. He failed miserably.

Singers need dramatic guidance. A good singer will be the first one to admit the need for any help in blocking, motivation and stage deportment. If this is not offered, the singers turn to the conductor for musi-

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"They went that-a-way!!!!" The evil Pagano (Paul Plishka) throws a kink into Verdi's first crusade in the San Diego Opera's new production of I LOMBARDI ALLA PRIMA CROCIATA.

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cal strength. Hans Vonk helped them tremendously. He managed to get wondrous dramatic coloring from his Violetta and Germont in Act II. He did not have such luck with the tenor, Vittorio Terranova, who was making his San Diego debut as Alfredo. A handsome man with a pleasant (although not great) voice, Terranova is from the old European school. He stands rigid with his hand over his heart as if saluting the flag while delivering his arias. R2D2 moves better onstage and emotes to greater effect. A sensitive director should have helped this man and quickly recognized the tenor's need for guidance. Reilly failed, leaving his Violetta with a lover who was a real nurd. Thankfully, John Brocheler was on hand as Papa Germont, bringing his sensitive musicianship and dramatic skills to the role.

PREMATURE EJACULATION

Diana Soviero starred as Violetta. Her talents again proved awesome, despite the uphill struggle against the tenor and director. Just after she had established a delicate mood with the "Ah fors e lui" in Act I, she was interrupted by an ardent fan who had flown out from New York. Soviero was about to begin the "SEMPRE Libera" when the house suddenly reverberated with a cry of "BRAVA SOVIERO" that started a nervous round of applause from the audience. In New York and major houses, these demonstrations are part of the standard operatic farce. But regional audiences react very honestly, and their confusion was apparent. Soviero stopped dead in her tracks in

shock, finally resuming when the claqueur had run out of wind. It was a rude, tasteless display by an opera fan, and keep in mind, I used to yell and scream with the best of them.

Soviero, however, is a natural as Violetta. She uses her voice for startling inflections and shadings, with a strong insight into the character. Diana cuts a fine dramatic stance onstage and continues to show astounding potential. If the crystal ball proves correct, you can expect to see her in Houston within the next few years making history in the world premiere of a new opera based on the life of Lola Montez, the legendary femme fatale.

But in the meantime, what can we do to loosen up that tenor? My suggestion is to have him eat 100 prunes and call the director in the morning!!

George Heymont

Lallo Trio in Berkeley

The M.J. Lallo Trio performs Tuesday, July 24, at the Freight & Salvage in Berkeley (San Pablo and Hearst). The 9pm show features light jazz and hearty laughs. \$2.50 cover.

The trio specializes in original jazz compositions "for the soft of hearing," with Susan Salisbury on sax, Susan Colson on bass, and M.J. Lallo at the piano.

On The Beat

Vinyl on Trial

by Adam Block

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- 4 - *This Side of Paradise*
- 3 - *Worthy Work*
- 2 - *Hard Core Fans Only*
- 1 - *Crime Against Vinyl*

DUTY NOW FOR THE FUTURE, Devo (Warner Bros.)

Devo's first lp grabbed listeners by the lapels with daringly wacky revelations about devolution; the sound of things falling apart. Their infantile autistic warp on "Satisfaction" was the wedge. Middle American banality and industrial precision stoked the assault. The boys presented themselves as neither glitter-gods nor pink-leathered urban outlaws, but self-proclaimed spuds-nerds on the march. The hilarious trappings helped them make the cover of *People*. I reckoned them as America's most exciting new group.

Album #2 has arrived and Devo is now a corporation; the disc opens with their mock-Arthurian anthem on synthesizer. The problem is that despite the big sound that producer Ken Scott has achieved, this isn't very catchy fare. The two best cuts, "Mr. Kamikaze, Mr. DNA" and "Blockhead," are old stalwarts of their live show. "Secret Agent Man" has nowhere near the punch of "Satisfaction" and there is nothing so instantly likeable as "Come Back Jones."

In the stunning live show these numbers take on a desperate life, but the lp remains a strangely dull holding pattern. From this team I expect more.

RATING: 3+

EYES OF THE HEART, Keith Jarrett Group (ECM)

The cover photo of a blue sky knifing into the sable angles of a narrow Spanish street sets the tone for Jarrett and Co.'s prettiest lp in some time. The line-up prove more lively than on last year's rather tame and cerebral lp, *MY SONG*. Here Jarrett plays lucid open pastorales, and Dewey Redman's hornwork is deliciously sultry and inventive. Paul Motians percussionists mysterious and evocative against the supple spine of Charlie Haden's bass. The opening side (part 1 of the suite) meanders a bit, but everything gells on side 2. A second lp features an encore improvisation on side 3, and a fourth side that is blank. I suppose Jarrett considers that a statement about more than waste and pretension. I'm not sure I do.

RATING: 4+

LODGER, David Bowie (RCA)

Bowie once played the extraterrestrial savior, Ziggy Stardust, but his current guise is the eternal expatriate, dodging between war zones. On the cover he looks like an assassination victim. The notion of the celebrity nailed for his passions is echoed by shots of the slain Che Guevara and Christ on the inner sleeve. The operative themes here are panic, desperation, and lost chances — pitted against the irreducible will to survive. Perhaps it is the claustrophobia of Berlin, or intimations of mortality, but Bowie has never sounded so trapped before. Musical collaborators Eno and Alomar put the oar in, and Bowie intro-

duces Arabic and African motifs on the oblique espionage numbers "African Night" and "Yassasin." He has come up with inspired lyrics after a dry spell, but the music turns too often from the leaden, "Repetition," to the anxiously cute, "DJ." There is one great cut, "Move On," on an album whose preoccupations are more interesting to think about than to listen to.

RATING: 3+

LABOR OF LUST, Nick Lowe (Columbia)

The Jesus of Cool gave us one of last year's finest lps, with his ironic impersonations of a variety of pop voices and coy to hilariously morbid lyrics. This season Lowe has shorn the high-jinks and produced the best hard pop disc I've found this year. The influence is country rockabilly to buglegum, with a trove of crisp early 60's hooks.

The opening cut, "Cruel to Be Kind," is mid-way between Tommy James and the Shondelles and the Jackson Five, and rates as my favorite. "I Made An American Squirm," the trans-Atlantic pop star fantasy, is the side's other marvel. Ever versatile, Lowe moves from the nearly accapella ballad "You Make Me" to the rockabilly fervor of "Switchboard Susan" to the Poco-ish cowboy-rocker "Without Love;" all effortlessly. Lowe has found a consistent voice that could help give back to pop's lighter moments the good name they deserve. Rockpile, though uncredited, seems to be the band throughout. I vote a hug and a beer for one and all.

RATING: 4+

Concert For Gay Rights Advocates

The young American baritone, David Jennings, of the Grazer Oper, Austria, will sing a recital August 3 to benefit the San Francisco-based public in-

terest law firm, Gay Rights Advocates. Mr. Jennings has programmed songs of Faure, Schubert, Brahms, Donizetti, Bellini and Verdi. The 8:30 concert at St. Aidan's Church at the corner of Goldmine Drive and Diamond Heights Blvd. will be followed by a champagne reception. The tax-deductible donation is \$15 and reservations are available at 863-3659 during the business day.

Mr. Jennings is currently under contract with the Grazer, Oper, Graz, Austria. He graduated cum laude from Oklahoma University and took a Master of Arts from Cal. State Northridge. He has performed over 26 different roles in the U.S. and Europe, including Santa Fe Opera, San Antonio Opera, Tulsa Civic Opera, Los Angeles Guild Opera and the Roger Wagner Chorale. Critics have responded to Jennings' voice with great praise — "A voice of natural beauty . . . always produced with ease and employed with taste . . . A spectacularly talented young singer."

Pegasus/Amtrak Gay Freedom Train

Pegasus Travel of San Francisco is sponsoring a special Gay Freedom Train Package via Amtrak from San Francisco, Seattle, Portland, and Los Angeles to the National March on Washington, D.C., for Gay Rights, on Sunday, October 14. The packages are as follows:

1. \$199.00 and up, per person, based on double occupancy — includes 9 days, 8 nights (6 nights on the train, 2 nights Washington, D.C., hotel); Amtrak coach railfare from the above named cities departing October 10, returning October 18.

2. \$229.00 and up, per person, based on double occupancy — includes 11 days, 10 nights (6 nights on the train, 4 nights Washington, D.C. hotel); Amtrak coach railfare from the above named cities departing October 9, returning October 19.

Passengers interested in reservations for the Gay Freedom Train Package should contact Rick at Pegasus Travel, 516 Van Ness Ave., 621-0166.



Baritone David Jennings will perform in concert August 3 to benefit Gay Rights Advocates.

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Wander Lust

Tahiti Gay

by A. Marc Leventhal



Tahiti's Beachcomber Hotel... even island paradises boast a Gay life.

If you are planning on tasting the Gay life here, consider staying at a hotel in downtown Papeete, a few of which I can recommend. The Royal Tahitian has a black sand beach and lovely palm shaded grounds. With only 40 rooms, the hotel offers personal service. I was picked up by a flight attendant from Air New Zealand; hence it just may be a fun place to stay overnight if flight crews stay there. The popular budget hotel Tahiti is a typical South Seas hotel, a little run down but comfortable. Right in the heart of town is the Royal Papeete with its 35 air-conditioned rooms on the waterfront boulevard. Located near the nightclubs of Papeete, I recommend a front room which will be a little more quiet.

Dining is expensive on Tahiti since much has to be imported, and there is a claim of French gourmet cooking. Papeete does have, however, a wide range of restaurant prices and cooking styles.

The best time of year to visit French Polynesia is May through October. The humid,

rainy season, like Hawaii, occurs in December through February. French Polynesia is most crowded during July when much celebration occurs around Bastille Day (July 14). December is always busy because of the holidays and extreme winters in the rest of the world. Whenever you come, you need travel light since you won't need ties or jackets. Casual is the word.

If you travel for the Gay night life, you will discover Papeete is the place for it. Polynesians accept homosexuality, and you will not experience any animosity if you feel like smiling at a native. Even the hotel directory guide at The Beachcomber as to what to see and do on Tahiti lists the Piano Bar on Rue de L'Ecole as a "disco with white lights, Gay bar." And if the navy is in port, the town swings. On the quay, along Boulevard Pomare, where the yachts are moored, you might find some friendly souls. And you just might feel right at home seeing all the transvestites. Don't bother bringing any of your leather gear, as it is a little too hot for

that here. Even levis will be too warm. Wear cotton and cut-offs. 80% of the time here I wore brief bathing briefs.

The renowned Spartacus Gay Guide goes list other bars, such as the Bounty Club, the Col Bleu, the Tiare Bar, and suggests outside cruising on the waterfront from Kon Tiki Hotel to Pitare Restaurant, along the waterfront Quai Bir Hakeim between Cafe Vaima and the UTA office. Spartacus suggests that you write them in Amsterdam and include \$5 as a service fee. They will then introduce you to an escort in Tahiti so that you can contact Gay men and women who will personally greet you and show you around.

Some new low fares and package tours have appeared for as low as \$499 (per person/double) for one week with deluxe hotel — so please contact your travel agent or give me a call at World Travel Arrangers, 421-4460.

HOTEL YORK

Russell Cox, President of the Hotel York, reported that renovations on the hotel were completed in time for the Gay Freedom Day celebration June 24, with all 102 designer-decorated rooms sold out for that weekend. After a well-deserved rest for the work crews, plans call for commencing renovations on the bar and restaurant space in the 1922 vintage building, which should open in the early fall.

San Franciscans were given a tour of the premises and a gala celebration of the Hotel's grand opening on May 13, 1979. About 500 well-wishers rocked out to the sounds of The High Hatters, a well-known all women's band which features music from the thirties and forties.

Perhaps the most exciting feature of the hotel thus far has been the creation of its stunning lobby. The owners spend a week attending San Francisco's famous antique auction, Butterfield & Butterfield's, accumulating an eclectic mixture of furnishings and oriental rugs, which were combined with a small jungle of plants to create the elegant but cozy atmosphere. Stained glass was added to the mahogany entrance-way, and the name and logo of the Hotel York were sand-blasted into the doorway and elevator glass in the traditional San Francisco victorian manner.

Another Tourist Ousted

Minneapolis

Karl Kinder, 32, a resident of Frankfurt, West Germany, was denied entry into this country June 26.

Kinder flew into Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport from Germany on his way to

Los Angeles to meet his fiancée. During a routine inspection by Customs officials, a copy of *Der Stiefel*, a Gay German language magazine, was found in his luggage.

The Customs inspector asked him if he was homosexual. "No," he said, "I'm bisexual." Kinder was then told that the 1952 Immigration and Nationality Act barred homosexu-

als and bisexuals and that he must either leave the country or appear before a US Immigration judge for a hearing.

Kinder responded, according to *Gay Community News*, "They say this country is free and everything. I feel like a criminal, but I've done nothing wrong." The tourist boarded a plane back to Germany only hours after he was denied entry.



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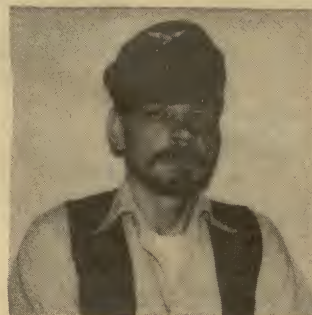
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High Sobriety Hits San Francisco

GAYS IN AA CONVENE

By Ray P. Comeau

"Good evening. Welcome to the conference and to San Francisco. My name is Tom and I'm an alcoholic." The audience, which overflows every pew of the man sanctuary of the Unitarian Center at Geary and Franklin, responds: "Hi, Tom!" It is Friday evening, July 6, the kick-off meeting of the three-day 4th Annual Gays in AA Western Round-Up. The chairman is Tom H., a tall and talkative accounting executive in his 40's, sober in AA over three years.

Jack H. is a handsome, soft-spoken 38-year old from Philadelphia who has been in San Francisco since 1975. Jack has been sober in AA for fourteen months. He is an Episcopalian priest.

"We're all very special people with a special rapport," states Ed S., chairman of the 1978 Round-Up, with a pronounced emotional quaver in his voice. The rapport is definitely evident at this opening meeting where the audience of some 600 fills the air with joyful vibration and serene anticipation. There are all types of Gay people here, male and female, as well as a few "token" straights and even, on occasion, children.

It all began in 1976 when a small group of recovered Gay alcoholics active in AA gathered each Sunday afternoon in a flat near Duboce Park to plan the first Round-Up. Even among members of the Gay groups of AA, many thought it

couldn't be done, but on the last weekend of June (coinciding with Gay Pride Weekend) more than a hundred showed up at the Student Union of San Francisco State University. The theme "Living Sober" was adopted that year and has stuck as the symbolic name for each succeeding Round-Up. Of that first planning committee, many were in attendance again in 1979. Some, however, have disappeared. At least one man has since died of alcoholism.

George S. is a lean, bespectacled, 30-year old waiter, originally from Indiana, who has been in the Bay Area for three years. Last year he was sober only two weeks when he attended his first Living Sober conference. George worked on the planning committee for the 1979 gathering. The changes in George over the past year are phenomenal.

In 1977 the second conference drew twice as many delegates and a greater participation from outside the Bay Area. It was held at Lone Mountain College. Last year's third conference was the first to take place at the Unitarian Center, a perfect facility in a perfect location. Again last year the number of delegates doubled. By Saturday evening this year, at the close of official registration, the number was a staggering 765.

In addition to recovered alcoholics, there were also present members of Al-Anon (a similar self-help program for relatives and friends of alcoholics), Narcotics Anonymous, and even Over-Eaters Anonymous.

From Whittier and West Hollywood; Cupertino, Sebastopol and Santa Rosa; Hawthorne, Coronado, Altadena, Hermosa Beach and Sacramento; Burlingame, Kenwood, Lodi, Pasadena, Long Beach and San Diego — from all over California they came. Also from as far away as Mannheim, West Germany, and London, England; Honolulu, Hawaii, and Hartford, Connecticut; Toronto, Phoenix, Houston, Boston and New York City; Seattle, Portland and even Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, delegates poured in.

Gage S. is a calm distinguished gentleman of "over 50" with an engagingly-friendly constant grin. Born and raised in North Dakota, he has been a San Franciscan since 1959 and is now the owner of a store specializing in hand-made gift items, many of his own creation. Gage has been sober over seven years.

The opening Friday night AA meeting featured a "drunkalog" from Tom Z., Ph.D., of Washington, D.C. (author of the article on Gay alcoholics that appeared in a recent issue of *Christopher Street* magazine) and a similar talk by Pat C., a Lesbian in Al-Anon. Smaller discussion meetings followed, and other AA meetings dotted the schedule throughout the three days.

Madeline H. of Santa Rosa is a trim, serious 24-year old who hails from Austin, Texas. A woodcutter by trade, she is also a member of the Brown Bag Readers' Theatre, a Sonoma County group of eight Lesbian recovered alcoholics who performed twice at the conference to enthusiastically appreciative audiences. Madeline has been sober for six months now.

In addition to AA meetings and Brown Bag, films were shown, including one made recently in Los Angeles called "Gay, Proud & Sober" and a Patty Duke Astin starrer entitled "A Slight Drinking Prob-



The staff at Sutter Medical Group (Sutter off Polk). The Group provides walk-in emergency and general medical care at reasonable rates. Gay-related ailments are also the Group's specialty.

lem."

The primary source of sharing, however, was the workshops — over 20 in all — covering diverse topics such as "Sober Relationships" and "Atheist and Agnostic (Staying sober in a spiritual program)." Most were co-chaired by Gay male and Lesbian alcoholics and/or Al-Anons.

Additional workshops on "outside resources" were also a part of the jam-packed weekend. Chaired by professionals in the field of alcoholism recovery, these covered topics as various as nutrition and health, the physical and mental damage of alcohol abuse, and treatment facilities outside of AA.

One popular workshop in this area was in a new field — "The Aging Alcoholic." It was conducted by Bud C. (sober 23 years) and Dan M. (sober 7 years) who are director and co-ordinator, respectively, for "Ventures in New Horizons," a seminar program for older alcoholics operating out of Trinity Episcopal Church.

Eilish L. is one of the few — if not the only — "straight" people at the conference. A feisty Irish lady 68-years young, she came to San Francisco in 1930. Today Eilish keeps very busy doing volunteer work and adding her high energy and enthusiasm to AA functions all over the City, including Gay meetings. She has been sober now for four years, nine months. And damned proud of it, too!

One of Sunday's workshops touched on an area sensitive to many in AA where traditionalists still insist that the program was set up only to deal with alcoholism. The times, however, "is a changing." More and more younger people are coming in today with dual addictions — alcohol and other drugs. "Living Clean & Sober" dealt with the controversy which may very well be especially prevalent among Gays.

With all of the resources of sharing, there was still time for celebration. At 10:00p.m. came "The Saturday Night Special," a carryover from the first Living Sober Conference, illustrating once more that sober drunks need no chemical fortification to relieve their inhibitions as they moved out and boogied on a rapidly crowded dancefloor to the Sound of Disco Downs.

Red C. is 71 and sober since 1954 — 25 years! Today he is manager of an apartment building in L.A. besides lending his wealth of experience in happy sobriety to all who come in contact with him.

The conference came to a close with another formal AA "speakers" meeting on Sunday evening. But it never really ends. Gay meetings of AA began in San Francisco 11 years

ago, the first in the nation — in fact, in the world. Gays now represent the largest single special-interest group within AA. Today there are more than a dozen Gay meetings of AA in the Bay Area alone, every night of the week. And every day they are growing in attendance.

Conservative expectations are that next year's Living Sober Conference will top the 1,000 mark. As for this year's highly successful event, the exuberance and positive energy of almost 800 happy, sober alcoholics was nearly enough to levitate the Unitarian Center!

Ray C. is 40, born and raised in Massachusetts, and living in San Francisco more than three years now. Sober since April of 1973, Ray is at present (and among other things) serving as a reporter for the most efficient and widely circulated Gay newspaper in the Bay Area. (Add two and two.)

"Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism." (From the AA Preamble)

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May 21st Fund

A strong show of support is very important for the May 21 defendants. The May 21 Defense Fund has been organized to provide this support and is asking people to help. Defense attorneys estimate they will need approximately \$30,000 in the next year. This money will pay for investigation costs and legal expenses of the defendants and ultimately for bringing suit against the police for acts of brutality against people at Civic Center and on Castro Street after the riot. The defense fund will also insure legal defense for anyone who is indicted by the new grand jury which is expected to be called in the next few weeks.

So far the Fund has raised \$2,500 through benefits, donation cans, and mailed-in contributions. The next event is an evening of music and poetry at Glide Church on Friday, July 27. An event is also scheduled for the Castro Theater at midnight on August 17. Contributions may be mailed to the Capp Street Foundation (for May 21st Defense Fund), 558 Capp Street, San Francisco, CA 94110. To volunteer to help with the defense or for more information, call the National Lawyer's Guild for the May 21st Legal Committee at (415) 285-5066.

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Polk Street Sally

The Travailing Perils of Polk St. Sally

by Dixon

Well, it's been fun and exhausting. The annual Rose Festival is winding up a colorful week, capped by the fabulous Rose Parade. Worth riding in that wretched airplane to observe this breathtaking floral float extravaganza. With champagne marching bands, along with prize-winning horse teams . . . a glorious sight. The eyes and ears completely titillated. Even the horse pooperscoopers were costumed and fun . . .

Speaking of pooperscoopers, Sweet Lips still holding court at The Embers . . . getting ready to make his appearance at a tea dance given in his honor at the Rafter's Disco, over The Embers.

Prior to the tea dance, we, the San Franciscans, will prepare and serve a hearty complimentary brunch to the Portlanders as a "thank you" for their hot hospitality . . . this brunch is rapidly becoming an annual rite. The fantastic chef, Bob Ross (Madam Zucchini), presiding over the stove, the breakfast was super. Empress Willis did the dishes. With every dish Willis washed, he would have another Bloody Mary. After three hours, he was pretty wet. Actually, everyone from SF . . . who did not have their previous evening's dates in tow, pitched in with the preparing, serving and cleaning. We loved it. Marvelous way of meeting people . . . asking how they want their eggs cooked.

Grey of the Yacht Club and his date settled for watermelon balls. They were surrounded by a SF chorus singing: "Black and White make Grey" . . . Bob (Freida) Friel holding hands with this darling little drink of water, named Chuck . . . former waiter at The Embers, now of the Lunch Bunch of the "P.S., San Francisco. Talk about returning with

a real live souvenir from a holiday! . . . Bob Ross returned with a little gift . . . which he will unveil the night of his stepping down at the Emperor's Coronation this fall.

My friend . . . the producer, Bob Golovich, trying to shoo away two . . . count them . . . two, twinkies from his evening of dubious activities . . . he must have kissed them back. Or offered the kids Castro Street . . .

The Tea Dance has begun. The Lips has finally made his entrance . . . thanks to Grey Ryder . . . looking like a vision in a red (what else?) terminal lace frock. Little me had the pleasure of having the first dance. Three dozen disco queens . . . watching this sight . . . swore off dancing forever.

Henri Leleu driving the disc jockey stark raving mad asking, repeatedly, for "something in a two-step waltz" . . .

That lovely hunk of woman, Phyllis . . . well, Phyllis is juno-esque, with a perfect set of jugs . . . bouncing around with a skinny, short girl, wearing a leopardskin (fake) bra with less tits than I. Every time Phyllis took a breath, her partner went flying back 10 feet.

Thanks to Big Dan who handles the light and sound, The Rafter's is really something. The special tea dance was a lovely and fun way to conclude this week's many exciting events for us.

Quite weary, but sated now, we are ready to board the big bird and head for home. I'm nervous already and can't find my fucking pills . . . The group assures me we will not be flying back on the yellow banana . . . I don't care. If this little column appears in the B.A.R., I made it back alive. . .

Sweet Lips Sez

by Dick Walters.

ED. NOTE: Upon inquiring as to where this column was, we were told The Lips was stuck in her cowgirl outfit after Circus Circus. She couldn't get the damn dress off because someone had sabotaged her with a faulty pin. Seems as though the zipper stuck and Lips pinned it up with a gift pin from her ample boosoom; the pin stuck; her arm got stuck; she couldn't type and she still is wearing the goddam dress.

After some exhausting investigation, we have tracked down the culprit. We give you his salutations but still don't understand his subtle skulduggery.

★ ★ ★

Mr. S. Lips
c/o Gilmore's
1068 Hyde St.
San Francisco, CA 94109

Dear Mr. Lips:

A couple of weeks ago, I was cruising . . . er, browsing among the stands on the sidewalk along Beach Street near the Buena Vista. I often browse

on Beach Street because it beats the shit out of browsing on Castro or Polk where there's so much fruit you could slip and fall on your ass. Besides, Beach is my name, and it gives me a sort of sense of proprietorship to stroll along a street that has the same name as I have. Why don't you ask the city to change Hyde Street to Sweet Lips Avenue? Then you could stand in front of the Calista store and flash your . . . er . . . smile.

Anyhow, there I was, brows-

ing away, when I spied a booth with numerous trinkets and bits of costume jewelry. The item enclosed with this note was in the display. At once, I cast a gimlet eye on the young woman in charge of the booth. Was she, perhaps, your worthy self, doing a little business in one of your many costumes? The first glance, though, told me that it couldn't possibly be you. She was far too heavy, and her moustache wasn't near as cute as yours.

The young woman asked me if she could help me. In my best Bankhead accent, I replied, "Dahling, if you only could! But tell me, dear child, is that slurpy-looking gegaw for sale?"

Or do you merely keep it there to frighten away evil spirits?" She assured me that if I wanted the thing, I could fucking-well have it. "My old man made it, and it's about the most embarrassing item on the whole street."

I decided not to ask her about her old man or where he drinks. I'm not a home-wrecker! Instead, I made the purchase and I now have the honor of offering it to you as a token of my shuddering esteem. Wear it, dear Lips, in health and prosperity!

With throbbing affection . . .

Scott Beach

Books

A Second Parent's Guide

by Frank Howell

NOW THAT YOU KNOW: WHAT EVERY PARENT SHOULD NOW ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY

by Betty Fairchild & Nancy Hayward
Harcourt-Brace-Jovanovich - \$8.95

More than once many of us wished, in the days of Truman and Eisenhower, that we possessed a book for mom and dad that might tell the facts of life about Gays.

Certainly the information flow is not as constipated with fear as it once was. Now That You Know is another attempt to fill the knowledge gap.

Betty Fairchild and Nancy Hayward are two parents of Gays who were instrumental in founding the original organization that assists relatives of homosexuals.

They provide a lot of the usual information about Gay life that we would expect in a book of this sort. They also offer stories of Gay couples who made the grade (always refreshing to hear), an examination of the religious objections, and chatty advice on how to start a Parents of Gays group in your local community.

The stories told about Gays and parents are always filled with little surprises, like the one the authors relate about the father of a young Lesbian who asked his daughter, when told of her sexual orientation, "Was it that boy you went with when you were sixteen?"

At the conclusion, step by step, do's and don't's are listed for both parents and their children.

Now That You Know will probably be compared with the only other study on this aspect of Gay life, A Family Matter: A Parents' Guide To Homosexuality, (McGraw-Hill, 1978), by Dr. Charles Silverstein, a psychologist. The Silverstein approach offers more depth and detailed knowledge, but Fairchild and Hayward show a little more

warmth and empathy for parents since they have been through the territory themselves.

This will make another great Christmas gift for those near and dear to you.

#5 Rally

Rick Slick will present DAY ON THE GRASS, a campaign rally on behalf of Dennis Peron for Supervisor 5, on Sunday, Aug. 5, at Dolores Park, from Noon till sundown, featuring Dennis Peron and other guests, with entertainment by Lloyds, Leila, Tuxedo Moon, & Terry Hutchinson & Antimatter, plus the Al Fellahin Dancers.

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Porn Corner —

Robert Opel: In Memoriam

Karr

I've been writing a column under the faintly ludicrous PORN CORNER title for some time. I write about sex movies, which, however fictionalized, are documentaries. They show us how men have sex, and they turn us on. Very simple. I don't think that I've seen any that could be called pornographic. It disturbs me deeply to have something actually pornographic to write about.

I refer to the death, through murder, of Robert Opel. Categorizing violence as pornographic while excluding sexual excess from that label may strike some people as trite. I question their morals. I can't say more on that subject, except that I insisted that this memorial for Robert be published under my usual heading.

For the first time, this is truly the porn corner. Robert Opel, called by the press "the proprietor of a sex goods shop"

"When you live on the frontier, you have to be ready to dodge the arrows." -Robert Opel

instead of a gallery owner, gossiped about as a sado-masochist instead of praised as an artist, and maligned as a political force instead of supported for his insistence on personal freedom, would understand and appreciate this column heading.

I didn't know Robert very well. Many will mourn his death with greater passion and loss than I. But I am a writer, and it becomes my duty to clarify that passion and loss and convey it to others, so that Robert's work can be understood and continued.

Robert was incapable of compromising his standards. He could not function as an assimilationist, working within the system, in a suit, at a desk. So he functioned outside the system, presenting artworks and propagandistic theater to awaken people to the possibilities life spread before them. His growing awareness of political realities, coupled with his fierce integrity, pushed him further and further away from what most people consider standard behavior. Maeterlinck wrote that "what is permitted teaches us nothing." In his unceasing quest for personal expansion, Robert went far past what is permitted.

To detail his personal life would obscure his sense of purpose and awareness. He recognized the dangers of his behavioral extremes and had made arrangements for the possibility of death. Arrangements which were made use of last week.

Although he didn't know it, Robert was a mentor to me. When I was with him, or thought of him or viewed the art works he chose to display, I was forced to re-evaluate my feelings. This was exactly his desire. In displaying what he called "actual folk symbols," Robert's aim was to raise consciousness of the differences between Gay and straight, to disseminate uniquely Gay images so that their continued visibility would cease to disturb and would ultimately educate people. He felt that Gay people accepted far too many cues from straights, and needed to learn and create their own lifestyles.

His own life was not lived very tidily. He was too busy for that, too busy embracing life in his need for personal expansion. He was frequently not well-spoken. The execution of his theatrical ideas did not usually live up to the ideas which motivated them. But Robert Opel was one of the few who spoke, who acted, who experienced. Human perception is terribly limited. Robert was the man who fought society, his enemies, and even some people who called themselves his friends, to allow us to expand those perceptions.

He had a maxim he was fond of. "When you live on the frontier," he told me, "you have to be ready to dodge the arrows." He certainly lived on that frontier, and tirelessly dodged the arrows that confine Gay life. Bullets cannot be dodged, however, and robbers shot and killed him. That he should be killed for his money is so petty, so goddamned American that I am silenced with frustration.

In Robert we lose a singular

The GAU, a tax-exempt educational organization, has expanded over the past two years with chapters now in every major American city. The Scholarship Fund, initiated last year, will provide for the education of Gay students and the promotion of research into all areas of the Gay experience.

Calder stated that the ultimate aim of the GAU is to provide a permanent fund large enough to help any deserving Gay student.

Unlike last year, when the prize money was divided equally among the five recipients, the money this year will be awarded to as many students as possible, based on both merit and need. The scholarship committee will evaluate each case individually, with no standard amount designated for each award.

The committee is composed of the same members as in 1978: Evelyn Hooker from Los Angeles; Martin Duberman, New York; Curtis Hincley, Boston; and Louie Crew, Georgia. Winners will be announced in November.

Information concerning either the Scholarship or Trust Fund can be obtained by writing to the Gay Academic Union, P. O. Box 927, Los Angeles, CA 90028. Deadline for scholarship application is September 30, 1979.

politician, a truthful and surprising artist, and a deeply caring and sensitive man.

Gay Academics Set Scholarship Drive

Los Angeles

The Gay Academic Union announced its plans to raise \$25,000 nationally for its 1979 Scholarship Drive at a fundraising benefit featuring noted Lesbian author Rita Mae Brown, July 5.

Vice President Daniel Calder, chairperson of the scholarship fund, noted that this year's goal is much larger than the \$3,500 raised last year, but added that potential donations were diverted by the demands of the Proposition 6 campaign in California in 1978.

GAY MAN NEEDS HELP

At approximately 10:15pm on Saturday, June 16, my friend Tim Glinos and I were both hit by a hit-and-run vehicle while crossing Harrison Street going to the Ambush bar located at 1351 Harrison Street. This vehicle came upon us traveling approximately 40-45MPH with, as far as I can remember, no lights, not a sound of a horn, no virtual warning whatsoever.

Tim was hit with full force, lifted up onto and over the vehicle's hood and onto the top right side of the vehicle. I was walking one step behind and to the left side of Tim and was apparently turned to the right at time of impact, being hit on the left side of my body but not knocked down to the street. When I realized what had happened, I saw the vehicle approximately 20 yards down the street put on his braking lights and Tim's body dumped onto the street, and then the vehicle took off around the corner on 10th Street, tires screeching as he made a fast get-away — more than likely onto the freeway.

We were both taken to San Francisco General Hospital where Tim was rushed into surgery at which time a blood clot was removed from his brain. At that time, they were not certain as to his other injuries but the doctors did know that both his legs were broken and he had other injuries to the mid-section of his body. I was released from the hospital after observation with no apparent serious injury other than skin abrasions and severe thigh bruises and bleeding.

Tim was in the Intensive Care Unit for over three weeks and is now in the Neuro-Surgery ward at SF General. Since I knew Tim only a week before this tragic accident, I am hoping that persons who have known him for a much longer time than I will visit him at the hospital, as in talking with the doctors and nurses who have been attending him I found that they feel strongly his recovery would be hastened by visits by his friends. He is rational at times and it is going to take a long time for his recovery.

A hit-and-run report is on file with the SFPD, but there is nothing they can do about apprehending the person(s) responsible for this accident because no license number or vehicle identification was obtained at the time.

I would like to thank the people at the Ambush for calling the ambulance so quickly and the person who got his vehicle on an angle in the lane where Tim's body lay so that other on-coming traffic was directed away from the immediate accident scene.

Please go out to the hospital and visit him, and speed him on with his recovery. Tim's apartment address is 350 Laguna Street, Apt. 7, and he is in the Neuro-Surgery Ward 4A, Bed 9-1, at the hospital. Thank you for your cooperation.

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Mr. Marcus

The X-Rated Bike Run

Southern Scandals

It's amazing what a bike club can do on its own when a 3-day out-of-town bike run is scheduled (viz: The 50's, "Gypsies, Tramps & Thieves," "Let It Rain," etc.) but when two clubs put their helmeted heads together such as the Barbary Coasters and the Constantines are now doing, you can bet that THE FIRST OFFICIAL X-RATED RUN will be chock full of esoteric surprises. The run is scheduled for the weekend of August 3-5, and the tariff is \$35 before July 25, and \$40 until July 30. Barbary Coaster Road Captain John Blythe will dig into the depths of his limitless imagination and certainly come up with delights to dazzle you. With a 24-hour bar, made to order breakfasts, bike & people events, a guest show and a run show, you're in for a stunning weekend. The wild and zany BC President Charlie Durham is in charge of the run show and that in itself should stir you to unlimited passion for this run. Posters are up, invitations are in the mail, there's a 200-person limit and please, no illegal drugs or pets.

★ ★ ★

Habitués of the South of Market scene were shocked and saddened to learn of the murder of Robert Opel, entrepreneur and the imaginative force at Fey Way Studios. One of the most unforgettable characters I have ever met, Bob was a gregarious, often outrageous, celebrant of life, and he had a sense of loving kindness that extended far beyond the confines of his brilliantly

conceived art gallery. His ever-frenzied concepts were only a portion of the talent, savoir-faire, and keen sense of humor that a lot of us had the good fortune to experience, digest and applaud. In an age where personalities of this type are rare, indeed, I do not think it is sacrilegious to protest that it was a selfish act to snatch the eminent Mr. Opel from us. It is certain that wherever his wonderful creature's spirit may be at the moment, he is still expending love, fantasy, and uninhibited brotherhood, God bless his soul.

★ ★ ★

For many of us, life way back in the dark ages when we were in the closet, is too painful to remember. All the frustrations, life-inhibiting fears, family acceptance, job security, fear of discovery and finally, self-acceptance are part of coming out. And then, what life-style will you choose? Leather, feather, cha-cha queen, macho trips, drag, fetishist? All these dilemmas are stunningly brought to light in Gary DeMaria's forthcoming book, *The Closet*, 160 pages of brilliant wit, humor, pathos and nostalgia in cartoon form, coming your way in September. It was no wonder that there were so many beautiful people at Hot Flash last Thursday, July 5, to catch a glimpse of Gary's ode to a fledgling Gay. Bubbling, laughing and sybaritic men and women were pleased at the preview pushed up with champagne and glitterati, hunky and funky.

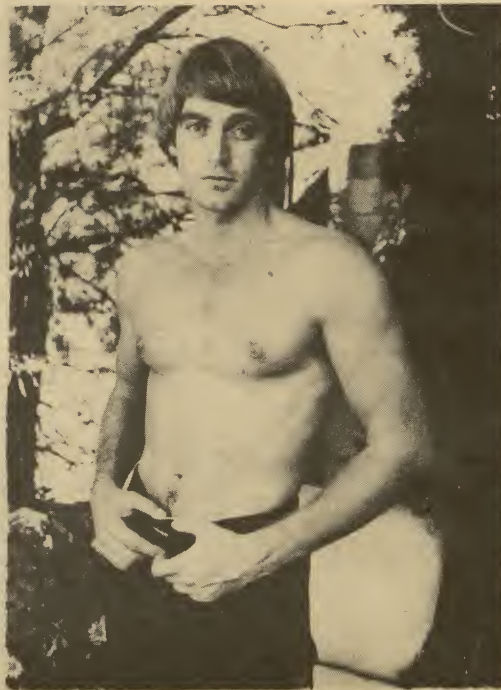
LIFE IN THE FAST LANE...

Don't miss the New Bell Saloon's 9th Anniversary on Sunday, July 22 . . . The Castro Street Fair is set for Sunday, August 19 — need I say more? . . . Jack Arico is back in town and all the married queens have hidden their spouses; you know how Jack is. After raping the Big Apple, what better territory to re-invade? . . . The END-UP has re-opened with a sparkling re-decorating job . . . Sutter's Mill on the verge of same. . .

Well, Ron Holmes' D.J.'s is finally open, and there's dancing in the Valley of the Dolls (Castro). A brilliant light show is constantly at work in D.J.'s (formerly Troll, er, Toad Hall), and they have tea dances EVERY afternoon. Poland's answer to King Kong, Bill Pierrick, is heading the crew at D.J.'s. You must drop in and check the scam that's coming down — it's too beautiful for words.

Not to be outdone in the race for racier things to do, comes now to South of Market, the HOT HOUSE, a pleasure palace situated near 5th & Clara (between Folsom & Harrison), that is sure to fulfill any fantasy you want. Membership by nature, the fees, hours and policies are open for your inspection on Friday nights if you want to join up . . . Understand Princess Margaret will be visiting our fair(y) city in October and South of Market's only TRUE royalty is attempting through diplomatic channels to get her down to the BRIG to christen his bike! Count Reynaldo del Fino, do you think Her Highness will be ready for us?

That big commotion you saw outside the emergency entrance of the St. Francis Hospital were the orderlies on the



John, played by Craig Shaw. Held over at the Nob Hill, GETTIN' DOWN is the popular porn offering.

5th floor ejecting one of Folsom's stellar bartender personalities who just happened to get caught balling a patient in traction — I would be the last to snitch on said bartender, but when he hit the sidewalk there was a LOUD clunque. . .

★ ★ ★

SOUTH TOWN STOMP...

The Mr. Fire Island Contest at the BRIG is going full steam ahead. Each Wednesday, the leatherati gather at the Parthenon of Leather to once more select one of our stunning dudes to represent SF at the

annual Mr. Fire Island Contest in New York. Details for entering the contest are posted in the bar and all age groups get a crack at the title. The proceedings begin around 11PM, and if you want to see a parade of manly beauties on the ramp, RUN, don't walk.

Gay times at Cissy's Saloon with humongous repasts, cocktails and zany people having a good time. Of course, bartenders Walter and Fury add to the milieu with their prolific cocktails and pleasant demeanor . . . Still no sign of the heavily touted AFTER DARK book

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store that was supposed to open this summer on our turf — or was that another hype that failed? ... The next Full Moon is Tuesday, August 7 — are you reading this, Dickie Cook of the BOOT CAMP?

... Like I said before, the Booty and the Black & Blue are both private membership clubs now, and the Black & Blue is now called BACK-STREET ... By the time you read this, the candidates for Emperor VIII will be off and running and if you want to meet them, the first all-candidates night will be held at FEBE'S, the bar that supports EVERY facet of the community. Wednesday, August 12, the candidates make their public debut — see you there and good luck to all the candidates ... Speaking of Blues, the recent local Blueboy Man of the Year Contest a fiasco! The less said about it the better!

★ ★ ★

NOW HEAR THIS! ...

UNCUT MEN WANTED AT THE TRENCH Tuesday Nites

The Eyeliner Room at the BAL(C)ONY is now known as the SKY ROOM ... The BULLDOG BATHS is almost ready to open on Turk Street (the original Club Baths of SF) ... Jedd Jedlick & Jack Pederson have opened their SF Office Supplies store at 234 Sussex Street ... George Scott has opened his DESIGNERS OPTICS shop at 2324 Market Street (are you reading this, MAVIS?) ... There is no "secret" Folsom candidate for

Emperor VIII ... Contrary to vicious rumors, NINES is alive and well and doing great — you definitely need reservations ... One of the best places for brunch is the CAFE SAN MARCOS on Market ... The STUD is going strong in the Valley of the Kings (Folsom) ... A new treat: Kitty's at the Caravan Lodge. You can eat, sleep, drink, whatever, in whatever order you choose and with whomever you please ... Studio West booming now and promoting cocktail hour ... Town Squire on Polk had a half-price sale this past week. Disco outfits being snatched up as it were a give-away.

MISTER MARCUS

The Men in My Life

Scouting & Skirting the Gridiron

Paul-Francis Hartmann

PART II A BIG FIRST DOWN

My first summer home from college the family noted repeatedly that I had changed. All I could tell was that I felt more distant; the worlds we traveled in were distancing.

One late June evening I was seeing off a college chum at New York's Grand Central Station. Harry had been a tedious guest and I couldn't wait for the "All aboard" to be off on my own.

I hurried out of Grand Central, turned right and wandered along 42nd Street toward Times Square. From there I could catch a subway uptown (just as I could have from Grand Central) ... it was more than the night air I sought.

As I passed the Main Library and Bryant Park, I became aware of many young men sitting on the steps, others propped against the stone balustrade. Like myself, I sensed something drew them there besides the heat, and I figured I was in not unfriendly territory. I stopped — for a cigarette I told myself. The butt had long since been pitched, and still I waited and watched. I knew something would happen but not what to do with it when it did.

Simultaneously a more powerful emotion began the struggle to dominate my movements: terror — and how it has always affected me — slow paralysis. "What in the hell was I doing where I was ...?" Not 15 minutes before I was seeing Harry off on the 20th Century limited to Buffalo. Harry in another month would be entering a Franciscan seminary (limp wrist and limp — he had found his closet for life. Safe and secure, the "celibate" priesthood was an easy way to go for many with "those kind" of leanings.)

Harry's last words were a fervent, "I'll pray for you. ..."

By now he'd be thumbing his pink crystal rosary beads (his grandmother's he said) and offering countless *Ave Marias* for my soul's welfare. Even as a pre-novice Harry showed a lot of flair. He insisted in saying his beads in Latin (the sissy lisp was less noticeable chewing on *spiritu sanctis* and *Pater noster*).

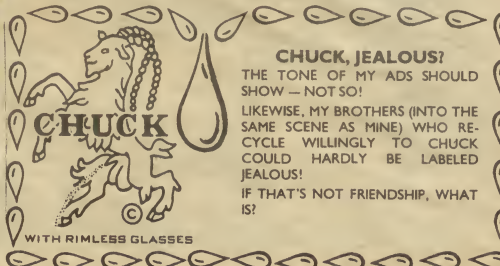
Four city blocks later and I was more than willing to enter a pact with the Devil (provided he appeared). For sure Harry's "Aves ... weren't working — or were they? Nothing was happening. ... And the self-suggestion that I might be being undermined made me all the more determined to hang on.

What I was doing could just as easily have been a reaction to the newly pious Harry. In the month before "taking the veil," he had been toning down his personality. I knew him first as a boisterous, fun-loving prankster. The new demure version was a dull Harry. And four days of getting him to Mass, benediction, confession and endless monologues on the Little Flower were not my idea of a summer vacation. Bravely and palely he set off to his destiny — I didn't even wait till his train pulled out.

★ ★ ★

A colossus of a man came up the broad steps. He smiled, came over to me — and as if it were the most natural thing in the world — asked me if I would like to go for a walk. With a second beautiful smile, he introduced himself as Richie Zembrowski. The name registered as a highly droppable one in sports. Not a particular fan, I couldn't target the name and paid no more attention to it. To me it was the soft smile, the soft blond hair that fell loosely about a handsome Slavic face. I followed him down the library steps like a puppy.

He told me he was originally from a small coal-mining town in Pennsylvania. A sports scholarship had lifted him to



CHUCK, JEALOUS?

THE TONE OF MY ADS SHOULD SHOW — NOT SO!

LIKEWISE, MY BROTHERS (INTO THE SAME SCENE AS MINE) WHO RECYCLE WILLINGLY TO CHUCK COULD HARDLY BE LABELED JEALOUS! IF THAT'S NOT FRIENDSHIP, WHAT IS?

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four years at Notre Dame where there was little study and much playing ball. Currently he was playing for the New York Giants, halfback. The name came into focus and I realized he was their star halfback.

We had nowhere to go — I was expected home and he had a wife in Washington Heights. So we just walked. First uptown into the Fifties along Madison Ave., then east. On 1st Ave. we stopped into a bar for a beer. The bartender shook his hand and asked for Richie's autograph. The beers were on the house.

We continued our twilight walk toward the river. As we walked we sort of brushed against each other. Occasionally he would put one of his

giant hands on the curve of my shoulder and cup the muscle as if it were a football.

Myself? I was mesmerized and a million questions. He was all a "man" should be: big, muscular, warm, sensitive (for 1950 that was quite a combination). I found myself growing laconic, if not lethargic. As if I could entrust this St. Christopher to ferry me to a sweeter kingdom. And yet I was stubbornly inquisitive because never before had I encountered a man who was so easy with his homosexuality and so easy with himself (what with all the other plusses in his life). "How did he do it? How did he get away with it? Did anybody know?"

By then we were sitting in a small park overlooking the East River. Night had fallen, tugboat lights blinked on the black river. Richie turned my face up to his and we kissed. I was simultaneously enthralled and terrified.

I said I had to go back soon. Every skyscraper light was a periscope into our privacy. Sensing my panic, he encased me in a sudden bear hug. Laughing again, he said, "Paul — to all your questions — the Giants, the Yankees, the Dodgers — from Little League to the Olympics — you name it. There's one of us on every team!"

He hailed me a cab. It was past 10PM and I had said I'd be back for supper. As a college student and a street-raised New Yorker, I had many freedoms but not the freedom to be rude.

As the cab rattled its way up the Ease Side Drive, I had a lot to think about. Our chance encounter had all the makings of a 1950's *Mademoiselle* short story. The kind bright Vassar graduates submitted: the famous but spoken-for man, the dark river, the park bench, the kiss, the telling punchline. Yet sitting hard into the taxi's leather seat, I knew it was a story with no one to tell it to. Except many times — over and over to myself.

A famed warrior had brought me a great message: "There's one on every team." It was a life theorem worth demonstrating.

In subsequent encounters with teams, squads, platoons, juries, panels, rosters — whenever I'd come upon a dozen men joined in a single venture, I'd say, "One of you is available." **Paul-Francis Hartmann**

Sports

Alfie's vs. Deluxe

Mark Brown

G.S.L. CHAMPIONSHIP

The Gay Softball League will complete its second season this weekend with defending champion Alfie's taking on a talented Deluxe team for the championship and a trip to the Gay World Series in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Alfie's has to be dubbed the Cinderella team in their fine effort to make the finals. Having only a so-so 5-5 record in regular season play, they upset Gilmore's excellent 10-5 in the eight-team playoff for the wild card spot.

In the semi-finals this past weekend, Alfie's soundly beat the undefeated Vagabond, Division C champs, 13-6 and 10-6.

The Deluxe, Division B champs with a 9-1 record, had a rough time of it against the Fabulous Forties. The Deluxe eked out a 9-8 thriller Saturday. Sunday's first game saw the Forties score five runs in the bottom of the sixth to win 5-3. In the second game the Deluxe took control and ran away with an 11-5 victory over the tiring Forties contingent.

The Fabulous Forties (6-4) were elevated to the Division A title after Cafe Flore (9-1) was disqualified from the playoffs by Commissioner Tony Nemger for not conforming to the 80% Gay-20% straight rule.

The Alfie's-Deluxe best two out of three playoff series will take place this weekend at Balboa Field #2, San Jose & Ocean Avenues. A single game is scheduled for Saturday at 1PM. Sunday's first game will be at 1PM with a 3PM game to follow if necessary.

SCORES

First Round

Alfie's	29
Eagle Creek	6
Gilmore's	28
Rookies	4
San Jose	18
Urban Country	1

Phone Booth	7
All American Boy	0

Second Round

Alfie's	12
San Jose	10
Gilmore's	30
Phone Booth	4

Wild Card Game

Alfie's	10
Gilmore's	5

Semi-Finals (2 out of 3)

Alfie's	13
Vagabond	6
Alfie's	10
Vagabond	6
Deluxe	9
Fabulous Forties	8
Fabulous Forties	5
Deluxe	3
Deluxe	11
Fabulous Forties	5

Wrap-up on Gay Ball


By Mac

A few quick words about those four teams who didn't make a playoff spot, since I guess its the last plug I'll be able to give 'em this season. The Bunkhouse basically has a fine team and if it stays together and gets an earlier start next year can easily be a dark-horse; the Fickle Fox, who gave us our fine treasurer, Rick Weil, never seemed to get over that heartbreaking loss to the Deluxe early in the season, leading by 15 at one point, slipping a run behind, then having the game called by the time limit . . . they're a good bunch of people and I sure hope they return next year with the same enthusiasm; the Nothing Special also got a late start but has been exceptional in its assistance at various league functions, particularly the F.L.A.M.E. Game; and finally, the wonderful sports of the Heart's Delight team who didn't let a winless season dampen their always high spirits.

OTHER NOTES

The GSL scored a "first," I'm sure, when it was invited by the Soviet Consulate here to send representatives to a reception at the Hall of Flowers a few weeks ago to welcome a new cross-cultural sports exhibition. Since nothing would be accomplished by boycotting it on human rights issues (we'd hardly be missed), Commissioner Tony Nemger and Alfie's team manager Durwood Saber represented the San Francisco Gay community to the numerous dignitaries attending. Gee, now that Moscow has acknowledged our existence, can Washington be too far behind? (Probably. . .) Can't help but wonder, tho', if someone's English-Russian dictionary gave a thorough translation of the word "Gay." Hope so.

And finally, did you catch Mickey Mantle in an interview with Dick Cavett last week, when asked if it were true that there are really some h-o-m-o-s-e-x-u-a-l-s in major league baseball, responded, "Oh sure, at least half. . ." Which way to the ballpark?



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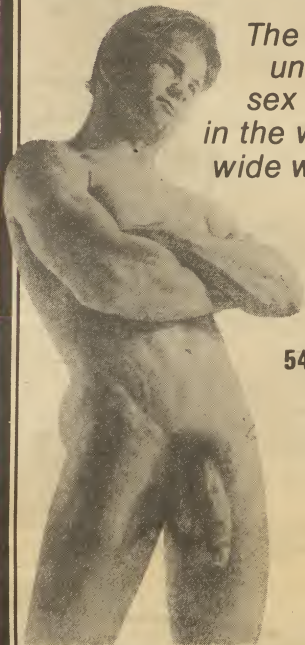


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Stationary Engineer, Sewage Plant, to \$2012 per mo.

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Wanted: Barber-Stylist, days and evening, Castro area. Call 367-9251 after 7:00pm E15

WANTED: Clerk for small camera shop. Darkroom experience, or Spanish speaking a plus — but not essential. Ph. 552-6894 11 to 6 E15

WANTED

Male Dental Hygienist is looking for friendly office. Write: Don Klein, 86 Elgin Park, S.F., CA 94103 E15

RELIABLE GREEK PASSIVE wanted by handsome "Dad" for mid-week liaisons. You must be very small, slim & smooth. Baby-face preferred with sensitive tits. I am 6', slim, strong, gentle & affectionate. a long-term relationship is desired. Call Bill, 408-688-3443. But only if you are very small, please, & submissive. E15

WANTED

Motel live-in houseboy. Good pay. 687-0170, Peter E15

Columnists from East Bay, Marin, Sonoma, Sacramento — Contact Paul Lorch, Mgr. Editor, B.A.R. H0

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For Gays only. Your own home business on a shoestring. Fabulous new guide by new author, The Wonderful World of Gay Mail Order. Send \$4 CK/MO to T.F. Rose, PO Box 119 337 Fulton St. San Francisco 94102 E16

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6', blond, bl eyes, 160 lbs.

Muscular-Versatile

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Brad - 22 yr old "boy next door" blonde, swimmer, with a 5'11" smooth athletic build, sexy blue eyes, well endowed! 863-3350 E16

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on a tall tan blond with

firm white buns. A hot

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STEVE, 921-5595 E15

Paul, muscleman, 50"C, 19"A 32"W, hung, good looks, vers. Call 415-928-0135. E15

Model Escorts wanted Immed. Cowboy Ranch, 474-0126 E15

"Hans" - Hot Norwegian country boy, very handsome blue eyes, blonde hair
HAVE A FANTASY? VERS.

"441-1802" E16

MODELS/ESCORTS USE A PHOTO

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W/M 50 will do BJ for W/M
25 to 45 evens and weekends.
Call 431-1114 evens E15

Gary of Alameda, met a few weeks ago in cafe on Castro St. Lost your phone no. and don't know your last name. I would like to continue conversation. Please contact thru this newspaper (Box 200). Tom of Alameda. E15

Cumming soon to S. of Mkt. The Asylum. For crazy men. E17

Sincere, together W/M seeks masc lover to share and build 1to1 relationship. Me: 38, 5'11", 175#, blond, blue eyes Norwegian gardener, strk lkg/acting. You: sincere honest enjoy home life under 50. Letter with photo. 314 17th St., Suite 628, Oakland, CA 94612 E15

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Young gay or bi-men who are interested in posing in forthcoming hardcover. Have developed body healthy appearance. Age 19-35. Hourly model fees pd. Release form req'd. Call John at Entr'acte, 415-956-0426 9AM-1PM. Only responsible men need call E15

Tall yng wh male wishes to meet TV types. Box 15237, SF 94115 E17

Wanted: young 18-25 attractive Asian Eurasian Latino smooth athletic & versatile as houseboy & masseur etc. easy cleaning chores must be reliable and happy personality 2 hours daily good pay for right person call Steve 626-1848 E16

MODELS/ESCORTS

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G/W/M 43 will shr 2BR furnished flat w/Gay male 26-38. Prefer quiet, non-smoker, employed. \$200 + 1/2 utilities. In Noe Valley w/close transportation. Call 648-7045 btwn 7-8PM. Jim. E16

Male roommate between 25 and 35 wanted by same to share nice large 2 bedrm 2 bath apt in Belmont near Ralston and Alameda de los Pulgas. Has deck, pool, cable TV. Must be employed, stable and clean. \$185 + 1/2 utils. 592-5881, call Fred after 5:30, anytime weekends E15

Hot looking macho man no smoking no pets into wt lifting leather disco loose likes to run around house naked lots of macho overnight guests to share lg Victorian house. \$149 a mo. includes everything. For interview, 431-5540 E15

Sunnyvale: 35 to 45, own BR, beautiful apt. Call Roy 736-7178 anytime. Don't be alone. E15

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VICTORIAN APARTMENTS

Deluxe one bedroom apts. feature fireplace, all new electric kitchen, new baths. McAllister near Broderick, \$300 E16

DOWNTOWN WALK TO WORK

5 rm apt. AEK, new carpet. Available August 1st. \$475
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SUNDERHAUS & LEIGH E15

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\$190. Flat in Richmond. 4 lg sunny rms. Tasteful nudec. Nr BART/AC. No pets. Charm. Terry, 236-9791 evens E15

SUNNY VICT FLAT

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4 1/2 lrg rms, w/w carpet, 3 crystal chandeliers. Kit with tiled brk bar & walk-in pantry. Lrg dead storage areas. Near Buena Vista Park. Excel trans. No pets. Employed, loc refs. \$400/mo incl util. Available August 22. 431-0210 E15

Studio: unfurnished, large sunny 1 1/2 rooms. \$150. 315 Hyde St., 885-3285 E15

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\$275. 1 bedrm apt avail for 1 Gay male. Includes utilities, dishwshr, refigr, drapes, carpets, laundry, stove. Gar. for bike. No pets. 285-2814 day or eve. E15

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Furn units Polk St \$120-up employed no pets 474-1721 E19

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Ask about 1 Mo. FREE Rent
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CALL NOW!

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STUDIO & 1-BR APTS.,

\$150-\$200. Elec. Kit, cpts, Renovated. Secure.



Unfurnished Flats & Apts.
Stove and Refrigerator Provided

ONE OF A KIND

\$650, 3-BR FLAT, 643 Hayes St. just renovated 1872 Queen Anne Vict, huge rms, 2 baths with tub & showers, full tile in Kitchen & baths incl floors, otherwise carpeted throughout. Curtains & shades, all elec baseboard htrs, all elec kitch. Huge dng rm, huge kitch with pantry & ldry rm, plus lvg rm.
\$1075, 2-STORY, 12-ROOM PENTHOUSE, 5-BDRMS, 3 BATHS. Dbl Parlor, huge dng rm & kitch, top floor sitting rm plus sundeck, spectacular view. Full tile in kitch & baths, incl floor, cpts in all other rms. Curtains & shades, all elec baseboard htrs, all elec kitch. **645 Hayes St.**, same bldg as above. Pets OK.

\$225, 5-RM FLAT, 456 Ivy St., small rooms but nice. Renovated rustic shingle bldg, cpts, all electric. No pets.

\$300, 5-RM FLAT, 439 Linden St. 2 small bdrms, sep dng rm, fireplace in lvg rm, hardwood floors. Unusually beautiful restored Victorian. Pets OK.

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A black and white illustration of a vintage delivery truck, likely from the 1920s or 1930s. The truck has a boxy, rectangular body with a large front grille and prominent headlights. It is shown from a side profile, facing left. The wheels are large and solid. The overall style is that of a classic woodcut or linocut print.

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E16

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A black and white advertisement for San Francisco Trucking Co. The central figure is a muscular man with a mustache, wearing a tank top that has "SAN FRANCISCO TRUCKING CO." printed on the chest. He is standing with his hands on his hips, exuding a sense of strength and reliability. Above him, the text "A MOVING EXPERIENCE" is written in a bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the image, the phone number "621-6772" is prominently displayed in a large, bold font. The overall style is reminiscent of mid-20th-century commercial posters.

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